Early Childhood Development Programs (ECDP)

Eligibility Criteria

Programs and services for prior to prep and prep age children are targeted to young children birth to 6 years suspected of, or diagnosed as having a disability with significant educational support needs in the areas of:

- physical impairment
- intellectual impairment
- hearing impairment
- vision impairment
- autistic spectrum disorder
- speech-language impairment
- multiple impairments

Programs include:

**Playgroup**: A weekly program for infants 0-3.5 years and their parents. Playgroup is primarily aimed at delivering direct family support to enhance the family's ability to support and maximise the development of their child from birth to 3.5 years.

**Prior to Prep**: Children aged 3.5-5 years attend a centre based program between 2-4 sessions per week. Individual programs focus on a more child-orientated delivery of support. As the children move through this phase, the transition to school and school readiness skills become a primary focus for the ECDP and/or service.

**Prep**: Children may attend an ECDP either part time or full time if their needs are such that they cannot be catered for full time in a prep program in their local school.
- Combined Prep Program and ECDP
  This option includes a combination of enrolment in a Prep class at a primary school in addition to part-time attendance at an ECDP.
- Individualised Program
  For a small number of children their educational support needs are significant and specialised and the child will benefit by being enrolled in a full time Early Childhood Development Program.

For more information contact:

Terry Wanner
Head of Special Education
Pine Rivers Early Childhood Development Program
Pine Rivers Special School
Phone: 3285 0545