

# Childcare Placement and Support Program





## What does the STaR Program offer to families of children with disabilities/developmental delay?

- trains and supports childcare educators to develop and implement appropriate individualised programs and activities based on ongoing assessment of the child's current functioning within the childcare centre, across all areas of development, and the family's priorities and the goals of therapists;
- supports the child to achieve optimal development within everyday play and routines;
- supports families to access appropriate childcare placement, which provides parents with increased life choices and work opportunities;
- provides parents with the opportunity for learning, discussion and connection with other families of children with disabilities;
- prepares the child and family for the school environment via the STaR Preparation for School and Transition to School programs; and
- offers the opportunity for siblings to attend the same childcare centre.

## Criteria for entry to the STaR Program

A child can be referred to the STaR Program if he/she is aged 0-5 years and has a diagnosed disability or developmental delay. Children are selected for the program based on:

- the availability of a place in a childcare centre supported by STaR;
- the centre's ability to cater for the child's individual needs and level of support required;
- the mix of disabilities within the group at that centre; and
- STaR's assessment of greatest need when places are limited.

## Parents/carers of children enrolled in the STaR Program need to:

1. supply any reports;
2. sign the parental agreement (which includes participation in ethics-approved research);
3. pay the usual fees for enrolment at the childcare centre; and
4. pay a minimal, once-only placement fee and an annual enrolment fee to STaR on acceptance of an offer of placement in the STaR Program.

## About the Program

The STaR Childcare Placement and Support Program (**STaR Program**) is modelled on a successful early intervention program that was developed over a 10-year period by Dr Coral Kemp and her team at Macquarie University Special Education Centre. The program has been operating within childcare centres in the community for more than 15 years.

Highly qualified special educators provide training for staff in participating childcare centres to assist them to support and include up to 6 children aged 0-5 years who have disabilities or developmental delay. Families have the right to be at the centre of decision making for their child; families are also supported according to need, especially in the transition to school.

## Where does the STaR Program Operate?

In childcare centres that are affiliated with STaR, in the north-western and western areas of Sydney.

### The STaR Association Head Office

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For further information about the STaR Program, please contact the STaR Office

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