



Early Years Program





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

- trains and supports early childhood educators to develop and implement appropriate individualised programs and activities based on ongoing assessment of the child's current functioning within the early childhood service, 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 early childhood service 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 early childhood service.

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 early childhood service supported by STaR;
- the service's ability to cater for the child's individual needs and level of support required;
- the mix of disabilities within the group at that service; 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 early childhood service.

About the Program

The STaR Early Years 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 early childhood services in the community for more than 15 years.

Highly qualified special educators provide training for educators in participating early childhood services 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 early childhood services that are affiliated with STaR, in the north-western and western areas of Sydney.

STaR Ltd Head Office

Unit 8 22 Hudson Avenue Castle Hill
NSW 2154
PO Box 209 Thornleigh
NSW 2120 Australia

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

Ph: 02 8850 1269

Email: office@star.org.au

www.star.org.au