

pOssibilities

and pathways

Checklist
for Choosing
an Early
Intervention
Service

General information

Name and address of Service?

Key contact name and phone number?

Are there any fees and other associated costs?

Who is eligible to attend the program?

What are the hours of operation?

What age range does the program provide services for?

Programs

How does the program work?

How many sessions will be available to my child per week?

Are the sessions:

- Home-based
- Centre-based
- Combination
- Remote

Is there a playgroup?

If so, how are the children grouped?

What is the main method of communication of the program?

- Auditory-Verbal Therapy
- Auditory-Oral Therapy
- Bilingual-Bicultural
- Oral language + Auslan or Signed English

If our child has other special needs, what services will the program offer to support these needs?

Does the service offer:

- Family counselling
- Speech pathology
- Audiology
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Sign language lessons for parents and family members

What is the process for planning our child's program?

How does the service liaise with other professionals and services working with our child and family?

How will our child's progress be evaluated, and how often?

How often will we receive written reports of our child's progress?

How does the service involve us in decisions relating to our child's current and future needs?

Who do we contact if we have concerns about our child?

What do we do if we are not satisfied with our child's assessment, program or progress?

Staff

What qualifications do the staff have?

(You want staff to be trained or experienced in early childhood development and hearing loss)

Are the teachers skilled in the communication method used by the program?

(e.g. Auslan, Auditory-Verbal Therapy etc.)

How easily can the staff be contacted between appointments if necessary?

Parent information

Is there a parent information handbook we can read?

Is there a parent support group or opportunity for parents to meet other parents?

Is there a parent education program?

Is the centre physically easy to access?