What is an Early Childhood Development Program?

The Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) provides specialised services to children with a suspected or diagnosed disability from birth to school entry (Prep) and their families. Programs are tailored to meet the individual needs of the child. The overall aim is to provide learning experiences for students to develop knowledge and skills, maximise their individual potential and their ability to access and participate in learning. Students may have a diagnosis or major concerns in one or more of the following areas:

- Significant Speech/Language delay
- Communication Disorders
- Developmental Delays
- Intellectual Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder
- Multiple Impairment
- Vision Impairment
- Hearing Impairment

The ECDP provides special education programs, therapy, co-ordination of services and where possible, support to access kindergarten and childcare.

The ECDP professional team of teachers, therapists and teacher aides works together to provide a variety of play and structured learning experiences that focus on the cognitive, language, social, emotional and physical development of each child. Parents and families are also crucial members of the team! The partnership between parents, families and ECDP staff is a very important component of all children’s programs here at Redlands. ECDP staff are better able to meet individual students’ needs when they are well informed. Open communication and sharing of information is encouraged and supported across all parties.

The educational programs delivered at the ECDP are designed to meet individual needs with an emphasis on helping children develop skills in the areas of:

- communication
- play and social skills
- independence and self-care skills
- thinking skills
- fine and gross motor development

Early childhood development programs and services consist of a number of phases.

The first phase is Playgroup and is for children from infancy to approximately 3 years of age. During this phase, parent/s accompany their child to a centre-based, weekly 2 ½ hr playgroup session. This session is tailored to the educational needs of the children enrolled and entails hands on facilitation from parents to support their child's engagement in tasks at playgroup, as well as continuing the strategies and approaches at home.

The second phase is Transition. Children are eligible to commence in a Transition group the semester they turn 3.

Transition groups attend for 1 day per week from 9am - 1:30pm. Parents do not need to accompany children to these sessions.

The third phase is our Pre Prep Program which is for children aged 3.5 to 5 years in the year prior to their Prep year. Children in this phase have a 3 day per fortnight program that is, 1 day per week every week, and an additional day every second week, again from 9am - 1:30pm. As children move through this phase, the transition to Prep becomes a significant focus of their individual program.
**Individual Education Plan (IEP)**

All children in Transition and Pre Prep sessions will have an Individual Education Plan. Once a child has been attending the program for a period of time, and the team have become familiar with the child and assessed their needs, an IEP will be written.

An IEP is a document developed by the child’s teacher, in collaboration with parents and other members of the multidisciplinary team, which outlines the prioritised learning goal/s for each student. The IEP is usually reviewed every six months. Please refer to ‘A guide to Individual Education Plans’ available from your child’s teacher, for more information.

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**Our Professional Team**

- **Developmental Guidance Officer**
  Assists with the referral processes, formal assessments, and provides support to the parents.

- **Special Education Teachers**
  Qualified with a wealth of experience to provide programs to meet the special needs of a wide range of students.

- **Special Education Teacher Aides**
  A team of highly skilled and committed aides who assist teachers and students to access educational programs.

- **Therapists**
  Assist with programming, assessment and identification of education support needs.
  Include: - Physiotherapist
  - Occupational Therapist
  - Speech/Language Pathologist

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**Redland Early Childhood Development Program**

An Early Special Education Program

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