NSW Department of Education

# Information Session

# DoE 'Transition To School' Supports

Laura Woodbury

Transition Support Teacher – Early Intervention

NSW GOVERNMENT

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## Transition Support Teacher – Early Intervention

- 11 TSTEI throughout NSW
- Work in line with the DoE Early Intervention Operational Guidelines
- Support the transition of children with additional needs; either disability or significant support needs, prior to Kindergarten in consultation with schools, families and agencies/preschools
- Receive referrals from schools, therapists, preschool directors, parents...

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# Preschool and Early Intervention

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## Preschool

Prior to School

**Department of Education Preschool**

•Children can enrol from the beginning of the school year if they turn 4 on or before 31 July that year. Enrolment is offered in the following order:

- children living within the school's enrolment area
- children living outside the school's enrolment area who have siblings already attending the school
- other children from outside the school's enrolment area

**•Priority is given to children from disadvantaged backgrounds who are unable to access other children's services, in particular, families experiencing financial hardship and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children**

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# Prior To School Supports

## Prior To School

Ideally, the year prior to starting Kindergarten but can start the process from the age of 3.

| Program | For |
|---|---|
| Early Intervention Support Class Session | Children with a confirmed disability are eligible to apply from the age of 3 |
| Early Intervention Resource Support | Children with a confirmed disability are eligible to apply from the age of 3 |
| Itinerant Support – Vision | Children who meet eligibility criteria are able to apply from preschool until they leave school. Support can be delivered in the preschool setting or the sensory teams base school |
| Itinerant Support – Hearing | Children who meet eligibility criteria are able to apply from diagnosis. Support is delivered at preschool and then into Kindergarten. |

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# Early Intervention Session

## Prior To School

Preschool based program with a very structured class routine that tailors to the wide range of needs of the students. Two mornings a week for 2.5 hours.

**A short version of a preschool day**

- Smaller class setting – ration of 1:4 – EI Teacher and SLSO
- All students have an individualised education plan (IEP)
- Short sharp activities to increase engagement
- Structured learning – based on the needs of the students
- Outdoor play – interacting with the mainstream preschool classes
- Circle time / Group time – with explicit teaching on skills needed to participate in group time
- Craft activities
- Some school readiness activities – recognising name, writing, puzzles, on task behaviour
- Morning Tea – developing independence

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# Early Intervention Class

## Focus Areas

- Social Skills
- Play Skills
- Communication
- Self Help Skills
- Sensory Seeking/Avoiding
- Emotional Regulation
- Gross Motor and Fine Motor Skills
- School Readiness
- Transition To School

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# Early Intervention

## Prior To School

### Eligibility and application required

- ❑ Severe Expressive and/or Severe Receptive Language Delay
- ❑ Intellectual Delay – Mild, Moderate, Severe
- ❑ Physical Disability
- ❑ Hearing or vision Impairment
- ❑ Autism

### Locations in the Metro North Area

- ➢ Mt Druitt Public School
- ➢ Kingswood South Public School
- ➢ Pendle Hill Public School
- ➢ Normanhurst West Public School
- ➢ Whalan Public School
- ➢ Windsor South Public School
- ➢ John Palmer Public School
- ➢ Yates Avenue Public School

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# Early Intervention Resourcing

**Prior To School**

- Family may choose **resourcing** instead of class session.
- This is where the EI teacher attends the **child's preschool** for one hour a fortnight to support the child as well as provide strategies for the educators to best support the child throughout the day.
- Except for **Kingswood South and Mt Druitt EI**. Both of these offer a supportive playgroup instead. Once a week for one to two hours. Parents are encouraged to attend and interact with their child in a supportive setting.

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# Eligibility

**DoE Early Intervention**

- Children are eligible to apply to attend an Early Intervention (EI) Preschool class **one to two years prior** to the year they start Kindergarten.
- The child should be enrolled in a **Preschool** to apply for EI services.
- The child must have at least **one diagnosed disability** to apply (e.g. ASD, Severe Expressive/Receptive Language Delay, Intellectual Disability etc).
- **Itinerant Support Teacher-Hearing** and **Itinerant Support Teacher-Vision** services.

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# How To Apply For EI Support

Assisting parents

**1. Identify the local school**
schoolfinder.education.nsw.gov.au

**2. Contact the school, expressing interest in Early Intervention and arrange to meet** – Learning and Support Coordinator, Counsellor, Principal.

**3. Families provide a copy of any reports to the school**

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# Transition to School

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# Compulsory School Age

## Enrolment and School Entry

- Children may enter Kindergarten in NSW if they turn 5 on or before 31 July.
  - Born 2019 – Have to start school in 2025
  - Born 2020 – May start school in 2025 (Jan – July) or 2026 (Aug – Dec)

**Children in NSW must have commenced school by the age of 6.**

**Exemptions can be sought through your local Public School.**

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# Diagnosis

## Disability Confirmation

For all support services within the Department a diagnosis or dual diagnosis is required.

**Parents must provide;**

- **Developmental or cognitive assessment** by a paediatrician or registered developmental psychologist
- **Autism diagnosis** or review from specialist medical practitioner or registered psychologist
- **Speech pathologist report** assessing a receptive or expressive language disorder
- **Occupational therapy reports**

Reports should be less than two years old.

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# Temporary Residents Program

## Support

For overseas parents travelling to Australia who wish to enrol their child in a NSW government school. *All children are able to access support.*

**Enrolment requirements**

Temporary residents must hold a valid visa and meet the General conditions of enrolment to enrol in a NSW government school.

For enrolment conditions of each visa subclass, refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions fact sheet.

**Temporary Residents Program (TRP)**
**Locked Bag 7004, Wollongong, NSW 2520, Australia**
**Tel (in Australia): 1300 300 229 (Option 1)**
**Tel (outside Australia): +61 2 9244 5555 (Option 1)**
**Email: tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au**

https://www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/temporary-residents

**For the most up to date information**

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# Types of Support

## NSW DoE Schools

- There are three options for families;

➢ Mainstream class

➢ Support classes in mainstream schools

➢ Schools For Specific Purposes (SSP)

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# Mainstream

## NSW DoE Schools

Every student has the right to attend their local primary school and will be supported to access the curriculum

- ❑One teacher – 20 children in Kindy
- ❑One teacher – 22 children in Year 1
- ❑One teacher – 24 children in Year 2
- ❑One teacher – 30 children in Years 3-6

**Additional support available**

- ➢ Integration Funding support – Eligibility and application required
- ➢ Learning and Support Team – assist with additional support, applications and adjustments if required
- ➢ Student Learning Support Officers (SLSO)
- ➢ School counselling service
- ➢ Sensory Impairment – Eligibility and application required for Hearing or Vision Specialist support
- ➢ Partial enrolment – through discussions with the school

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Classification of Support Classes;

**The Department also offers a range of support classes for children with a disability.** Eligibility criteria is required and the application (ARF) is submitted through the local school.

- ➢All students have one or more diagnoses of autism, intellectual, physical, behaviour or mental health
- ➢Between 7-10 students only
- ➢Specialist Trained Teacher and Student Learning Support Officer
- ➢Access the curriculum – modified to meet individual needs
- ➢Individual Education Plan – created with school, parents and other agencies (if applicable).
- ➢Part of the whole school community i.e. carnivals, excursions, assemblies, etc
- ➢Can transition to mainstream classes for some subjects or experiences.

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Classification of Support Classes;

- AU – Autism Specific Support Classes
- Intellectual Specific Support Classes
  - IM – Mild Intellectual Support Class (from the age of 8)
  - IO – Moderate Intellectual Support Class
  - IS – Severe Intellectual Support Class
- MC – Multicategory Support Class
- H – Hearing Support Classes
- PH – Physical Support Classes

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Autism Specific Support Classes - AU

- Beresford Road PS
- Blacktown North PS
- Blacktown West PS
- Braddock PS
- Caddies Creek PS
- Clairgate PS
- Galungara PS
- Glenmore Park PS
- Hebersham PS
- Jordan Springs PS
- Lalor Park PS
- Madang Avenue PS
- Marayong PS
- Northbourne PS
- North Rocks PS
- Ngarala PS
- Rouse Hill PS
- Rydalmere East PS
- Seven Hills West PS
- Sherwood Ridge PS
- Springwood PS
- Surveyors Creek PS
- Werrington County PS
- York PS

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Moderate Intellectual Disability - IO

- Caddies Creek PS
- Epping West PS
- Girraween PS
- Lawson PS
- Marayong PS
- North Rocks PS
- Penrith South PS
- Seven Hills West PS
- Sherwood Ridge PS
- Whalan PS

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Multi Categorical Support Classes - MC

- Bella Vista PS
- Bennett Road PS
- Beresford Road PS
- Blackett PS
- Blacktown West PS
- Bidwill PS
- Bligh Park PS
- Cambridge Park PS
- Claremont Meadows PS
- Crawford PS
- Doonside PS
- Epping West PS
- Emerton PS
- Galungara PS
- Hobartville PS
- Jasper Road PS
- Jordan Springs PS
- Katoomba PS
- Kingswood South PS
- Lalor Park PS
- Lawson PS
- Madang Avenue PS

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Multi Categorical Support Classes – Continued.

- Marayong PS
- Nangamay PS
- North Kellyville PS
- Northbourne PS
- Parklea PS
- Penrith PS
- Plumpton PS
- Riverbank PS
- Riverstone PS
- Rooty Hill PS
- Rouse Hill PS
- Rydalmere East PS
- Shelley PS
- St Clair PS
- Springwood PS
- Toongabbie PS
- Vardys Road PS
- Wentworthville PS
- Werrington PS
- Werrington County PS
- Windsor Park PS
- Winston Hills PS
- Yates Ave PS
- York PS

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Multi Categorical Support Classes – Continued.

- Braddock PS
- Emu Plains PS
- Blackwell PS
- Clairgate PS
- Dawson PS
- Girraween PS
- Jamistown PS
- Seven Hills West PS
- Lethbridge Park PS
- Kurmond PS
- Londonderry PS
- Glenorie PS
- Pendle Hill PS
- Ringrose PS
- Mt Druitt PS
- Regentville PS
- Surveyors Creek PS
- Toongabbie East PS
- Tregear PS
- Walters Road PS
- William Dean PS

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Severe Intellectual Disability Support Classes - IS

- Lawson PS
- Windsor Park PS
- Caddies Creek PS

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# Support Classes in Schools

## Physical Support Classes - PH

- Jasper Road PS
- Roselea PS
- Werrington PS

## Hearing Support Classes – H

- Penrith PS
- Toongabbie West PS

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# Schools For Specific Purposes (SSP)

## Schools for Specific Purposes (SSP)

SSP schools can start from the age of 4 years old. Eligibility criteria is required and the application (ARF) is submitted through the local school.

- All students have a moderate to severe intellectual disability. Students often have other intensive levels of need, intellectual, medical and physical.
- Maximum of 6 students
- Specialist Trained Teacher and SLSO
- The curriculum is directed at maximising students' learning for living and improving quality of life
- Individual Education Plan – created with parents, therapists and schools
- Continue to have programs including discos, shopping, athletics carnivals and connect with local school experiences
- Can transition to a mainstream school or support class if required

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# Schools For Specific Purposes (SSP)

## Schools for Specific Purposes (SSP)

| | |
|---|---|
| Fernhill School | Glenmore Park |
| Halinda School | Whalan |
| Karonga School | Epping |
| Kurrambee School | Werrington |
| South Creek School | Riverstone |
| Tallowood School | Kellyville |
| The Hills School | Northmead |
| The Ponds School | The Ponds |
| William Rose School | Seven Hills |

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# Supporting families to start the process...

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## The Process

### Applications

**Families contact their local school** for a meeting with the Learning and Support Teacher and School Counsellor. Take **all current reports** from doctors, occupational therapist, speech therapist.

**The school will –**

- Investigate eligibility for support services
- Discuss school options available
- Assist with completion of Access Request Form (application form)
- Ask parent to sign the Access Request Form and provide them with a copy of the completed Access Request Form
- Submit the completed Access Request Form for consideration at Placement panel

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# Placement Panel

Decision Makers

- Parents decide on three priorities on the application, in order of preference.
- Placement panels include - Learning and Wellbeing Coordinator, Learning and Wellbeing Advisor, Learning and Wellbeing Officer, Primary Principal representative, Secondary Principal representative, SSP representative and a Senior Psychologist.
- Panels meet twice a term, in Week 3 and 7
- The panel's recommendation will consider factors including distance and appropriateness of the application.
- Decision will be supported, deferred or declined.

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# Applications Are Presented At Panel

Important Dates

**Dates for 2025 placement**

- **Primary Placement Panel – T3, W3** (closing Applications Friday 26th July 2024)
- **Early Intervention Placement Panel – T4, W3** (closing Applications Friday 18th October 2024

**The panel process**

- Applications considered for closest most appropriate setting with vacancies.
- If students are placed, a letter of offer is sent via the local school.
- If unsuccessful, application remains active for next two panels.

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# Formal Review of Placement

**Support classes/SSP**

**When:** Yearly, at the school

**Who:** Parents, teachers, school counsellor

**Why:** To ensure placement is appropriate

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# What If A Child Is Not Placed?

**High needs but no placement**

- The child will begin Kindergarten in a mainstream class
- The school will provide accommodations for the child
- Emergency funding or IFS funding can be applied to support the child. IFS funding has different levels depending upon the needs of your child.
- Support class placement will continue to be applied for through AR until child is placed.
- Partial enrolment (part day exemption) may be considered

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# Key Messages

**Take home messages**

- Support options;
- Year prior to school – Early Intervention class or resourcing
- Kindergarten – mainstream with support, support class, SSP

- It is never too early to start having these conversations with families

- If you hear of families with blocks or barriers then please contact Laura

- Encourage families to visit their local school well before July.

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# Contacts For Further Information

**Questions?**

**Transition Support Teacher – Early Intervention**
Laura Woodbury Phone: 0493 385 664
*laura.woodbury@det.nsw.edu.au*

**Learning and Support Coordinator**
at the local school

**Learning and Wellbeing Officers**
Nirimba Office Phone: 9208 7611