DoE Early Intervention Information for Parents

Early Intervention is support provided for young children who have a disability to promote their development prior to Kindergarten. The Department operates Early Intervention programs at eight public schools across the northwest Sydney area. They provide a preschool program for children with a confirmed disability (e.g. ASD, Severe Expressive/Receptive Language Delay, Intellectual Disability etc), prior to the year they start Kindergarten. Children with a disability from three years of age to school entry are eligible to apply. The child should be enrolled in a local preschool to apply for EI services.

The Early Intervention Programs operated by the Department of Education provide two main program options:

- Early Intervention **Session**: These classes provide individualised learning programs in collaboration with families and other service providers. There are EI classes at John Palmer PS, Kingswood South PS, Mount Druitt PS, Pendle Hill PS, Normanhurst West PS, Tregear PS, Windsor South PS and Yates Ave PS. Days and times vary for each class however most usually run for 2.5 hours with each child attending either one, two or three sessions per week. There is an EI Teacher and a School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) who work with the 5 - 8 students in the class.
- Early Intervention **Resource Program**: The Resource program is a collaborative approach where the Early Intervention teacher travels to the child's regular childcare centre and works with the child and the staff at that centre. The EI Teacher assists the preschool to develop and implement strategies supporting the student's transition to school and makes recommendations for appropriate Kindergarten class placement. Resource support is not offered at Kingswood South PS.

Both programs include working with parents and other professionals to meet the individual needs of each child and to plan for a successful transition to school. A review meeting is held with the EI teacher, School Counsellor, and parents during the year. Assessments and recommendations for Kindergarten placement are discussed at the meeting.

Access to the Department's Early Intervention program is through the Access Request process. Families should visit their local public school to begin the process. Access Request forms are submitted to a placement panel. Parents are notified by letter if they have been offered a position for their child or if an offer is not able to be made. A child is typically offered the one closest to their home address.

Early Intervention applications for 2026 need to be submitted by 17 October 2025

Once a child has been offered an Early Intervention program, arrangements relating to class times or resource support timetables are organised by the school staff in consultation with the child's family and other agencies. Some children may be eligible for travel support services which are provided by the Department to assist students who may otherwise not be able to access the class program. Applications for access to travel support services are subject to approved eligibility criteria and can be arranged through the school once an offer for class placement has been made.

Please contact your local school for further information about applying for DoE EI programs.

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