

Team members may include:

Occupational Therapist

Promotes fine motor skills (hand & finger function) and daily living skills (dressing, feeding, bathing, self care)

Physiotherapist

Focuses on physical development with the development of body postures and gross motor skills

Speech Language Therapist

Focuses on maximising communication potential and advice to develop feeding and swallowing skills

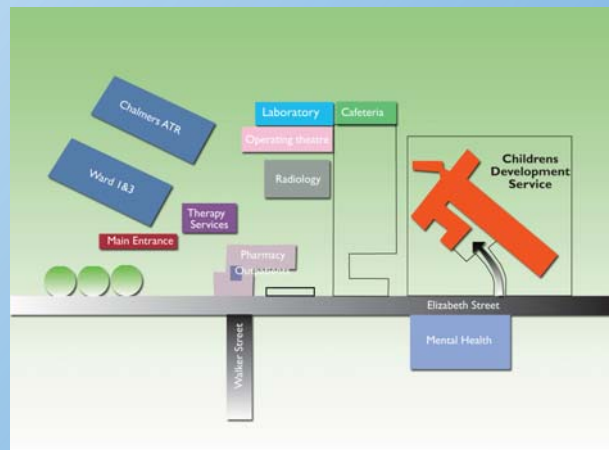
Social Worker

Provides you with support, information and advocacy

Paediatrician

A medical specialist in child development & treatment

The team may collaborate with other specialists e.g. Dietitian, Orthotics, GPs.



Childrens Development Service
Ashburton Hospital
Private Bag 801
Elizabeth Street
Ashburton 7700
Phone: (03) 308 4149



Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Ashburton & Rural Health Services

Date Issued: December, 2008

Authorised by: Head of Therapy Services

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Children's Development Service

Ashburton Hospital

Information Brochure



The Children's Development Service (CDS) is provided by the Ashburton and Rural Health Services. It is funded by the Ministry of Health to provide assessment, therapy, support and assistance for children and young people aged from birth to their 16th birthday.

Our multidisciplinary team works with families/whanau to:

- develop the child's full potential
- improve the child's independence and care
- support opportunities to participate.

We cater for children with delayed development due to physical, sensory or intellectual disability.

Each child responds differently to therapy. A child will stay in this programme for as long as the family/whanau and team agree this is necessary. If at any time the child needs extra support in any area of development, this will be discussed with family/whanau by team members.



Referrals are received from Medical Practitioners, Paediatricians and Allied Health Services e.g. Plunket, Public Health Nurse. Children may be referred on to other services by us.



Services may include:

- Early intervention
- Individual goal based therapy
- Parent education
- Equipment at home



- Acute post surgery physiotherapy
- Hydrotherapy
- Splinting
- Referral to local specialised services for wheelchair and seating systems, and housing modifications

Programme

1. Assessment

This will normally take place over several sessions. Depending on the age of the child it may include formal standardised tests as well as clinical observations.

2. Ongoing Therapy

The focus of therapy will reflect family centred goals. It will involve individual or group sessions with a Physiotherapist and/or Occupational Therapist and/or Speech Language Therapist.

3. Home Programme

An individual therapy plan will be developed with the parents/whanau for each child, allowing therapy to be integrated into daily routines.

4. Frequency/Length of Intervention

This is determined by the child's needs. It may be weekly, fortnightly or as necessary.

5. School Visits

At times a therapist will see the child at his/her pre-school/school. Team liaison will occur as necessary to assist with the commencement and integration of attendance at pre-school/school.

6. Individual Plans (IP)

Six monthly reviews are held to assess progress and set goals to assist the child's development. This includes family/whanau, health and education team members and significant others.

7. Early Intervention Group

The Early Intervention Group is held fortnightly (Wednesday mornings) in the activity room at CDS. This is a relaxed setting for families and their children to meet, play and support each other.

Team members available are:

- Early Intervention Teacher
- Occupational Therapist
- Educational Support Worker
- Physiotherapist
- Social Worker.

