

# Services for Children



**Merri** Community Health Services

## Children's Services

Early childhood is both a rewarding and challenging time for parents and children. When developmental problems occur these challenges can be overwhelming. MCHS offers a range of services that can assist in identifying and addressing some of the causes of developmental delays.

## Foundations Early Childhood Intervention

Foundations Early Childhood Intervention provides individual and group services for children with developmental delay and disabilities, and their families. These programs are designed for the full participation of the parent with the child.

### Staffing

- Early Childhood Teacher and Home Tutors, Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist.

### Referrals

- Via the Northern Early Childhood Intervention Services – Central Intake on 9479 0121.

### Eligibility

- Children aged 2-6 years with significant developmental delays
- Families who live in the municipalities of Hume, Moreland or Darebin.

### Sites

- Broadmeadows and Thornbury.





## Helping Children with Autism

Helping Children with Autism program provides individual and group services to children who have been diagnosed with Autism, and their families. These programs are designed for the full participation of the parent with the child. Individual and group services are provided from Broadmeadows and Thornbury sites.

### Staffing

- Early Childhood Teacher, Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist.

### Referrals

- MCHS HCWA program on 9302 3979.

### Eligibility

- Children aged 4-6 years who have been diagnosed with Autism.

### Sites

- Broadmeadows and Thornbury.

## HIPPY

HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters) is a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program which aims to

- Maximise the chances of a successful early school experience for children
- Empower parents to be their children's first teacher
- Foster parent involvement in school and community life.

HIPPY is a 2 year program starting during the child's year before school and continuing into the first year at school.

### Staffing

- Early Childhood Teacher, Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist.

### Referrals

- HIPPY Moreland on 9355 4903.

### Eligibility

- Children and families who live in Fawkner
  - and speak another language at home
  - have missed out on a place at 4 year old kinder.

### Site

- Fawkner.
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## Child Health Team

Child Health Team provides assessment and therapy services for children with developmental concerns and delays.

### Staffing

- Speech Pathologist , Occupational Therapist, Psychologist (0-6 years)
- Audiologist, Dietician, Paediatrician (0-18 years).

### Referrals

- Service Access on 9350 4000.

### Eligibility

- Children with developmental concerns and delays.

### Sites

- Coburg and Fawkner.

## Family Services

MCHS is part of a large consortium of organisations that delivers the Integrated Family Services program for the Hume and Moreland Local Government Areas. This program aims to support families with complex needs to ensure the best interests of the child are promoted and protected.

Interventions such as family therapy, individual support and case work are provided.

Other services to assist parents and their children are:

- Family Violence program, assisting family members including children dealing with violence in the home – see information sheet for further details
- RAFT program which provides support and counselling for parents, partners and children whose family life has been disrupted due to drugs or alcohol use – see information sheet for further details
- Victims Assistance and Counselling program can also assist children when they have been the victim of or have witnessed violence and other forms of crimes against the person – see information sheet for further details.



For more information on these services, or if you require an appointment, contact Merri Community Health Services today.

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