

Introduction

Christchurch Hospital recognises it takes some time for children's developmental concerns to emerge, referrals to be sent, and appointments made to see a Developmental Paediatrician. In response, Christchurch Hospital has established a Child Development Service with a Coordinator who will work with you to ensure that when you see the Paediatrician all concerns are heard and the most accurate assessment of your child's developmental needs is made.

The Coordinator is trained in child development, assessment, early intervention, and working with families in the community.

The Assessment Process

Shortly after you receive the letter for your child's appointment with the Developmental Paediatrician, the Coordinator will contact you to discuss gathering relevant information to assist the Paediatrician in their assessment of your child.

You will be sent some forms to fill in and return before the appointment. They include a

- Background information questionnaire
- Consent form.

The background information is important in that it assists the Paediatrician in building a clear picture of your child and how he/she came to be referred to the service for assessment.

The consent form seeks permission to make contact with your child's school and request information from those who know your child well and can provide perspective from that environment. It also asks for consent to forward relevant information gathered as part of this assessment with onward referrals for intervention and support.

While respecting confidentiality, the sharing of historic and current information already gathered will ensure your child receives the most appropriate intervention, and will assist in streamlining service delivery.

If you have any recent reports from other professionals/services which relate to your child's development, please also send copies of these. If you only have originals, they can be sent in for copying and will be returned to you.

Before your appointment with the Paediatrician:

The Coordinator will collate the information gathered and meet with the Paediatrician to discuss your child's presentation, your concerns and hopes for the assessment. This will ensure the appointment is specific to your concerns and most helpful in making decisions about your child.

Meeting the Developmental Paediatrician On appointment day:

You and your child will meet with the Paediatrician for the appointment where you will discuss your concerns and your child will be observed and examined.

The Paediatrician recognises that your child's view is important and he/she can play an active role in the discussion.

After the appointment:

As required the Paediatrician may refer your child to other services for further assessment and/or interventions to support their developmental needs.

The Coordinator may assist with these referrals and will follow up with those services to ensure your referral has been received, that you have been contacted, and are engaged with them.

Follow-Up Appointment

The Paediatrician may want to see your child for a follow-up assessment at some point. Prior to this appointment the Coordinator will contact you with regard to accessing new information about your child's development for the Paediatrician.

In the interim, queries can be made via the Coordinator.

Service links in the community

- Families
- General Practitioners
- Christchurch Hospital Services
- Community Health and Mental Health Providers
- Community Disability Providers
- Ministry of Education
- Community Education Providers
- Community Social Service Agencies
- Lifelinks (needs assessors)

Patient confidentiality

The Child Development Service regards all information as confidential. Information gathered to build an accurate developmental profile of your child will only be released to other agencies with your consent. However the needs of the child override consent in matters of care and protection.

The service standards

The Child Development Service adheres to the following standards:

- Early Intervention Association of Aotearoa New Zealand Code of Ethics.
- The Code of Health and Disability Services Consumer Rights.

Contact details

Location:

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Paediatric Outpatients Department
Lower Ground Floor, Riverside
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Christchurch

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Assessing Your Child's Development - School Age

Parent / Caregiver Information

Child Development Service



Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha