

## 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 development is made.

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

## The Assessment Process

Soon after you receive the letter for your child's appointment with the Developmental Paediatrician, the Coordinator will contact you to arrange to visit you and your child at home.

Before the visit you will be sent some forms to fill in. The coordinator will be able assist you complete them when she visits. They include:

- Background information questionnaire
- Developmental assessment screen
- Consent form.

## Home visit

- The Coordinator will discuss your child's referral and answer questions about the assessment process.
- The Coordinator will observe your child in his/her home environment, gather further background information, and discuss his/her development, play and behaviour with you.

### After the visit:

With consent, the Coordinator may visit your child's Early Childhood Centre and observe him/her in that environment.

The Coordinator will write a report profiling your child based on information provided and the observations. Where possible this report will be forwarded to you for approval before finalising as a formal document. A copy of the report will be sent to you after your child's appointment.

### Before your appointment with the Paediatrician:

The Coordinator will meet and discuss your child's presentation with the Paediatrician. She will be able to outline your concerns and priorities for the appointment to the Paediatrician to ensure the appointment is specific to your child's issues and most helpful in making decisions about your child.

### Meeting the Developmental Paediatrician On appointment day:

The Coordinator may be available to attend the appointment to engage with your child while you are speaking with the Paediatrician. This will allow you to focus on the consultation and provide opportunity for your child to demonstrate some developmental skills through play.

### After the appointment:

- The Paediatrician may refer your child to other services which will best meet their identified developmental needs.
- The Coordinator will then follow up with those services to ensure your child's referral has been received, you have been contacted and are engaged with them.

## 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:

Child Development Service  
Paediatric Outpatients Department  
Lower Ground Floor, Riverside  
Christchurch Hospital  
2 Riccarton Road  
Christchurch

### Postal Address:

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Paediatric Outpatients Department  
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Private Bag 4710  
Christchurch 8140

### Contact us:

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## Assessing Your Child's Development - Early Childhood

Parent / Caregiver Information

## Child Development Service



**Canterbury**

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

**Canterbury**

District Health Board

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