

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.

What does the Coordinator do?

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

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

What actually happens?

Meet the Coordinator

Home visit:

- The Coordinator will speak with you about the reasons for the referral and invite you and your family to share relevant background information about your child.
- The Coordinator will assist you to complete a developmental questionnaire about your child, from which the Coordinator will be able to identify your child's current level of development.

After the visit:

- With your consent, the Coordinator may contact your child's early childhood centre or school to gather additional information. This could include a visit to observe your child in that setting.

Before your appointment with the Paediatrician:

- The Coordinator will consult with the paediatrician about the information gathered regarding your child. This will ensure the appointment is specific to your concerns and most helpful in making decisions about your child.

Meet the Developmental Paediatrician

On appointment day:

- The Coordinator will 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 Coordinator will support the Paediatrician in referring your child onto the most appropriate services which will enable their developmental needs to be met in ways which are practical and possible for your family (if required).
- The Coordinator will then follow up with those services to ensure your 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 paramountcy of the child overrides 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
Christchurch Hospital
2 Riccarton Road
Christchurch

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ASSESSING YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENTAL LEVEL

Parent / Caregiver Information

Child Development Service



Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha