

The Early Childhood Development Program is guided by a plan specifically tailored to meet the needs of services within the Mildura, Swan Hill, Gannawarra and Buloke local government areas.

On behalf of the Mallee Child, Youth and Family Services Alliance, The Early Childhood Development Program is based at Mallee Accommodation and Support Program (MASP).

Should you have any questions in relation the Early Childhood Development Program please contact:

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EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Early Childhood Development Program

Early childhood safety, stability and development are the foundations for learning, behaviour and health through school years and into adult life. Children who have negative experiences in their first three years of life can have long-lasting effects on brain development and are more likely to experience behavioural and learning problems, substance abuse, involvement in crime, poor physical health and practise poor parenting.

The Early Childhood Development Program will focus on two key objectives:

* Systemic improvement for vulnerable children (0-5 years) through developing and enhancing partnerships between Child FIRST/Family Services and universal and secondary early years' services.

* Service enhancements for vulnerable children (0-5 years) through developing and facilitating targeted capacity building activities to enhance family services and early years' practitioner skills in assessing, planning and responding to early childhood developmental needs.

Early Childhood Development Coordinator (SECDC)

The role of the Senior Early Childhood Development Coordinator (SECDC) is to strengthen service responses and partnerships between Child FIRST/family services and early years' service providers to maximise vulnerable children and families' opportunities in accessing and remaining engaged with early years' services.

The Senior Early Childhood Development Coordinator can directly assist Child FIRST & Family Services workers through the provision of secondary consultation in relation to the developmental needs of vulnerable children aged between birth and five years.

Research indicates that active participation in early childhood programs enables vulnerable children to experience positive learning and development opportunities, lessening or eliminating the effects of disadvantage. Research also illustrates that the impact of quality kindergarten is more profound for children experiencing disadvantage, and that vulnerable children benefit from two years of quality kindergarten.