



# NEWSLETTER

Term 2 2021

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## Welcome to Term 2 2021

Our soccer final went off with a bang last week! The children all rocked up at Spencer park with amazing spirit and ready to have some fun! We played lots of fun games including toilet flush, sharks and surfers and dodge ball. After the warm up games we split into two teams and played two halves of soccer. Everyone did amazingly and the children ran laps around Brooke, Phil and Catherine. It was awesome to see the skills the children had developed over the past 10 weeks and see some A league goals kicked. The children all received a certificate for being an outstanding player at the end of the match and a small gift. We are looking forward to seeing the children returning to soccer again for the next block and hope to see some new faces as well. If you would like to join the next block please contact Brooke 0428 045 907.



## Our Services

- ◆ Early Intervention and Therapy Supports for children aged 0-young adult with an NDIS plan.
- ◆ Advice and referral service for families with questions or concerns about their child's development.
- ◆ Supported playgroups for families with children aged 0-school aged in the Bega Valley.
- ◆ Indigenous family support and supported play sessions, service/support linking and transport assistance.
- ◆ Mobile Toy and Parenting Resource Service.

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**PlayAbility**



**Playgroup**

Check our page for weekly posts of Nature play, cooking and stories from our home to yours.

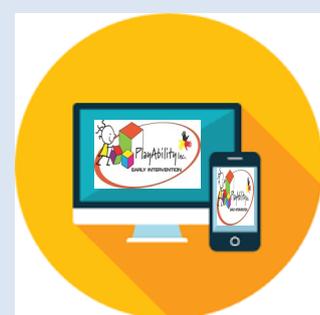


### Referrals—

for service providers, NDIS plan managers/coordinators please use the referral form on our website.



[www.playability.com.au/referrals-forms](http://www.playability.com.au/referrals-forms)



Don't forget to check our website. You can access all our timetables or send us a message from your computer, tablet or phone.  
[www.playability.com.au](http://www.playability.com.au)

We wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and waters of the Bega Valley and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



# Welcome to PlayAbility Family Support



## Who we are:

**PlayAbility** Family Support is an all-inclusive service. Our aim is to **empower** children and their families to set and **achieve** real and measurable goals in **education**, **development** (**wellbeing**, **social** & **emotional**) and **health**. These family-centred goals are achieved through strength-based programs focused on creating a world where children feel connected to their **identity**, **community** and culture.

## What we do:

- Mobile Toy and Parenting Resource Service
- School transition programs and school collaboration
- Navigating the NDIS and access
- Supported Playgroups (Outdoor reconnect play session)
- Supported Community groups
- Referrals to other services
- Internal referrals to Early Intervention Specialists
- Paperwork and support letters for housing, Centrelink, care and education.
- Home visits
- Connecting families to parenting groups
- Transport assistance
- Attending appointments (Dr, Dentist, EYAT, CIFTs, EACH)
- Development and implementing collaborative Family Planning



Kylie Eldridge-Spires, Family Support Manager Phone: 0427 677 066

## New Family Support Office

The Family Support team have set up a new office next door to the Bega PlayAbility office at 32 Church street, behind the lawyers. Drop in and say hello! Please enter and exit via the ramp at the back of the building as the laneway has occasional cars and delivery vehicles.





# Welcome to PlayAbility Family Support



## Playgroup Update

This Term Playgroups will be returning to our Indoor locations across the Bega Valley Shire and surrounding areas! We will still be offering our Reconnect Play Sessions in Bermagui and Eden every second week.

Our Playgroups and Play Sessions provide an opportunity for children aged 0-6 years and their families to Play, Learn, Grow and Socialise in a safe and inclusive environment.

Our program is created to support children in meeting their developmental milestones through

- Craft Activities
- Song and Story Time
- Messy and Sensory Play
- Movement

Our theme this term is Our Country - Australia.

## Mobile Toy Van

We are very excited to announce that our new Toy Library Van will be visiting our Indoor locations once a fortnight.

The borrowing process will be a little bit different - We will have a catalogue of resources for families to select from, these resources will include books, puzzles, toys, things for your big muscles and things for your little muscles.

To ensure the hygiene of our resources we will be implementing a deep cleaning process.

## Health Message

To keep everyone safe it is required by our organisation that you do not attend any of our services if you have recently travelled to a Covid-19 Hotspot, have been in contact with someone who is awaiting Covid-19 Test results or have any of the symptoms of Covid-19.

We understand that it is coming into flu season, however we kindly ask that you do not attend our groups if you or your children have had a runny nose, cough, temperature or if you have been generally unwell recently.

Please don't forget to sanitise upon arrive to our groups!

## PlayAbility Term 2 Timetable

### Playgroups

Cobargo	Bermagui	Bega	Eden
Cobargo Preschool 10-11:30am Every Monday April 26th - June 21st	Dickinson Oval Tuesday 10-11:30am April 27th May 11th, 25th June 8th, 22nd	Seventh Day Adventist Hall 10-11:30am Every Wednesday April 28th - June 23rd	PlayAbility Centre Thursday 10-11:30am April 29th May 13th, 27th June 10th, 24th
	Wallaga Lake Boardwalk Tuesday 10-11:30am May 4th, 18th June 1st, 15th		Bundian Way Thursday 10-11:30am May 6th, 20th June 3rd, 17th

### Toy Library

Cobargo	Bermagui	Bega	Eden
Cobargo Preschool Monday May 3rd, 17th, 31st	Dickinson Oval Tuesday April 27th May 11th, 25th June 8th, 22nd	Seventh Day Adventist Hall Wednesday April 28th May 12th, 26th June 9th, 23rd	PlayAbility Centre Thursday April 29th May 13th, 27th June 10th, 24th

For more information contact Makayla on 0428 083 039

Please contact Makayla for further information on our Reconnect Play Sessions  
or Mobile Toy Library Van on: **0428 083 039**



# Early Intervention & Therapy Supports

## Welcome to Term 2

### Group Activities

Soccer will be returning for another block, if you would like to join a group please contact Brooke 0428 045 907.

Phil will be continuing with the craft group, if any children 7 years and over would like to join in please get in contact with her 0438 453 480.

Rowan will be starting a imaginative play group this term 'Dungeons and Dragons'. If you are interested in joining in please let him know 0447 615 192.

An expression of interest has been sent out for a yoga group. Thank you for everybody that submitted their interest, we will put together everybody's feedback to plan dates and times.

A letter from Geoff was sent out last week with billing changes due to the March NDIS Price Guide update. This was mostly around the cancelation policy and travel. Please contact us if you would like to discuss it further.

We will be induction some more staff into the EI team over the upcoming weeks. Watch this space!

The Federal Government in response to a review into the NDIS is about to implement a raft of changes beginning mid year (the ECEI Implementation Reset). Some very good and some not. The two most significant changes are

- Increasing Early Childhood Early Intervention from 0-6 years to 0-9 years. This is great! It means we can support children more effectively through school transition and is particularly good for children without a diagnosis or recognised diagnosis (such as ADHD).
- Independent Assessment (AI) will assess children with no reference to our work. The IA approach has the potential to; increase confusion and hoops for parents, misrepresent a child's development in a box ticking approach, reduce support options and reduce funding.

### Feedback

**PlayAbility welcomes and values your feedback. It is a vital component of our monitoring and review process and enables our service to evolve and improve.**

If you are not happy with any part of your service, you have the right to complain to us. Talk to your key worker, email, text or write a letter to us or complete a feedback form and place it in the feedback box at either our Bega or Eden centres.

Feedback can be anonymous and you are welcome to have an advocate during any part of the process. Please ask any staff member for a copy of the Feedback and Complaints policy or you can find it on our website.

Scan the QR to complete a Feedback, Complaints and Compliments Form Online



### Policy Review

We are currently reviewing *Eligibility and Access* and *Referrals* policies. If you would like to participate in our policy review please email [admin@playability.com.au](mailto:admin@playability.com.au) to receive a copy or ask any of our staff.

### Our Team

Suzie Ervera—Manager/Teacher  
Karyn Thomas—Specialist Teacher  
Karin Champagne—Specialist Teacher  
Louissa McPherson—Specialist Teacher  
Phil Power—Allied Health Assistant  
Brooke Hansen—Allied Health Assistant  
Catherine Brown—Allied Health Assistant  
Rowan Cox—Speech Pathologist  
Jamie Goodman—Physiotherapist  
James Dedman—Physiotherapist  
Karen Urquhart—Social Worker  
Fran Bowery—Sector Capacity Building Support Project Officer

### NDIS Plan renewal

If your child has a NDIS Plan review coming up, get in touch with us early so we can prepare any reports you may need to take along to your child's planning meeting.

If you would like additional support preparing for the meeting or at the meeting please speak to your keyworker or Suzie.

There have been some changes to plan renewals due to COVID-19 contact us, EACH 1300 003224 or have a look at the NDIS website for more info .



# Early Intervention & Therapy Supports



## The Transdisciplinary Key Worker Model

The NDIS funded component of PlayAbility (EI & Therapy Supports) involves staff that work as key workers and developmental specialists that ensure that parents and other important adults in the child's life can provide children with experiences and opportunities that help them gain and use the skills they need to participate meaningfully in their everyday lives.

We use a transdisciplinary keyworker model, which is a collaborative approach that places one professional at the centre of providing a range of specialist therapies.

The key worker, often a teacher, draws on the expertise of other staff within disciplines like speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and psychology to inform how and what supports are delivered. Another name for the transdisciplinary model is the "team around the child approach".

Initially, key workers spend time with parents and caregivers to discuss their goals and priorities in relation to the child's NDIS plan. The key worker will establish relationships with staff at the child's educational setting (e.g. school or day care) and coordinate assessments and input from other specialists.

Then, the key worker writes a plan in collaboration with the parents and other important adults. This plan is individualised to suit the needs and capacity of each family. This plan is called the Early Intervention Service Plan (EISP) or Early Childhood Service Plan (ECSP).

Regular supports are then scheduled to fit into the routine of the family and may include centre based sessions, particularly in the beginning. In time, supports will increasingly be provided in the child's natural environment including home, community, preschool and primary school. As well as being a strengths-based approach, supporting children in natural environments enables the key worker to share strategies with teachers and other caregivers so there is consistency and stability for the child.

All supports are play based and child-centred with respect to the child's learning differences and preferences, culture and values. Trusting relationships and collaboration between the child, family and other providers is nurtured through communication and positive action. ([Click here to read and article about "Learning through Play" from our last newsletter](#))

Following each session comprehensive notes are provided about the goals, strategies, observations and discussions so that each parent and provider has a clear understanding of what has been working, what has not and how the child is progressing towards their goals.

PlayAbility also provides family support services. The family support service is not NDIS funded, and so children do not require an NDIS plan for their families to access that service. As an organisation, we work collaboratively with each other and external organisations to provide holistic and meaningful support to children and their families. See pages 2 & 3 of our newsletter for more about what Family Support are up to this term.

