



NEWSLETTER

Term 3 2023

Phone: 02 6496 1918 Email: admin@playability.com.au

Post: PO BOX 501, Eden, NSW, 2551

Website: www.playability.com.au NDIS ID [4050003241](#)

Welcome to Term 3, 2023

Inclusion Hub update

Back in 2021, 18 months after the Black Summer fires, PlayAbility was awarded funding to purchase and redevelop a site to upscale our services. This new centre, in Parker St Bega, will be completed in the next month or so.

The Inclusion Hub will include three new playrooms, a large gym, an open space for group programs (including a kitchen) and a small outside play area. It will be a much more welcoming, productive, and relaxing environment all-round, and big enough to carry us forward into the future.

Whereas helping children at school and at home is still best practice, having the option of centre based sessions in the gym or a quiet room has its place when we are targeting specific goals.

The room for groups will enable a lot more flexibility during the day and after school for children who like a safe space to practice their social, problem solving and motor skills.

Our grand opening is likely to be in August or September. We will keep you posted.

The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund is jointly funded by the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Government.

FAMILY SUPPORTS TEDDY BEAR PICNIC



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.
 - ◆ NDIS Plan Management.

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.

NDIS UPDATE

NDIS review

The NDIS is currently undergoing a major review by the new government. We are hoping this will bring some changes to how early childhood supports are funded. Part of the problem is that the NDIS rewards providers who claim for a lot of services instead of providers who achieve outcomes for 'participants'.

Some clear messages have been sent already.

1. The change to the age for early childhood supports.

From July 1, the NDIA will change their definition of young children from 0-6 years to 0-8 years old.

- If your child has an NDIS plan and is turning 7 after July 1 you will stay with EACH being your early childhood partner
- If your child turned 7 before July 1 you will remain with Uniting being your local area coordination (LAC) partner
- Children younger than 9 years old with a permanent disability who receive their first NDIS plan will be referred to EACH as their early childhood partner

There is no change to the eligibility requirements or the definition of developmental delay.

- Children younger than 6 years old will still not need a diagnosis to receive NDIS funding.
- Children over seven years will still require a diagnosis (in their list) to receive NDIS funding

[The age of children supported under the NDIS early childhood approach is changing | NDIS](#)

2. Price guide

There has been no change to the price caps for early childhood, therapy supports or plan management. Whilst the cost of delivering supports has increased for registered providers, the NDIA has not increased the hourly rate due to the number of non registered providers entering the 'market'.

The NDIA is still waiting for competition to drive down the cost of the scheme. Until this happens, they have indicated the price caps will remain, meaning no deregulation any time soon.

3. Fraud

Bill Shorten, Minister for the NDIS, has said that 20% of funds paid annually have been misused at the hands of "crooks".

This is a concern for anyone accessing the NDIS for their child because it means:

- Less funds in the plan to access supports
- You may run short of funds early and have to pause services
- You may not have funds left for reports to support the annual review
- Potential reduction in funding for subsequent plans
- Access to the scheme will become more difficult for others

What can you do?

In the context of early childhood and therapy support you can:

- Insist on a service agreement to be clear what will be billed for
- Insist on an itemised statement or invoice for each claim
- Check each statement or invoice carefully and ask yourself:
 - ⇒ Do the items match what was agreed in the service agreement?
 - ⇒ Was the item/service actually delivered or provided? (e.g. did you get the report?)
 - ⇒ Was the time allocated correctly? (e.g. did the session go for that long?)



NDIS UPDATE

Note: Because a provider says they can, or states it in a service agreement, doesn't mean they are operating within the rules.

Know that a provider cannot claim for:

- services in advance. This includes claiming payment for a report before you receive it.
- time *not* spent actually providing a support (e.g. claiming 1 hour for a 45 minute session)
- 'notes', unless you receive a copy (e.g. it needs to support your capacity)
- 'notes', when the session has been cancelled (e.g. cancellations cover session time/travel only)
- 'resources' you have not received or consented to
- 'assessments' or 'reports' you have not consented to
- 'assessments' or 'reports' that provide no benefit (e.g. the assessment doesn't match goals)

Please ask us or your plan manager for clarity about any of these points. Don't be afraid to ask your provider about items on the invoice you are concerned about. Mistakes do happen.

As a registered provider, PlayAbility has a complaints process detailed in our service agreement. Please contact us if there are any concerns about our services or billing.

If you are not happy with how any provider has responded to your concerns, you can make a complaint or report fraudulent activity directly to the NDIA.

[Fraud Strategy Statement](#) | [NDIS](#)

Early Intervention and Therapy Supports

Our Team

Suzie Eruera - Early Childhood Support
Manager / Specialist Teacher
Pauline Mendes - Therapy Support
Manager / Speech Pathologist
Karin Champagne—Specialist Teacher
Lucy Gollan—Specialist Teacher
Sue Hill—Specialist Teacher
Angie Russell—Specialist Teacher
Anna Maslen—Specialist Teacher
Holly Suitor-Fogarty—Specialist Teacher
Rowan Cox—Speech Pathologist
Brooke Hansen—Keyworker
Phil Power—Keyworker
Sonia Evans—Allied Health Assistant
Sophie Revington—Allied Health Assistant
Melissa Shannon - Allied Health Assistant
Hannah Lenthall—Allied Health Assistant

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 unhappy with any part of your service, you have the right to make a complaint. 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.



Once upon a Time

The importance of reading to children

By Karin Champagne



‘There once was a girl who lived with her mother at the top of a very tall house.’

These are simple words, yet they draw us in and invite us to come somewhere new and meet this girl and her mother who live at the top of a very tall house. Each time we read aloud to our children, we teach them more about their world, we surround them in language, we begin to build strong literacy foundations and we create a space to bond and share enjoyment and pleasure with our children. We know that babies learn spoken language from hearing language and being spoken to every day. Reading aloud to a child provides a perfect time to engage in spoken language.

When we read to children the most important thing for us to remember is that the experience is warm, fun and loving. Getting to the end of the book is not always the aim. The book provides a catalyst for conversation, there are pictures to look at, characters to imitate, stories to discuss and feelings to explore, vocabulary is built, the rhythm of phrases and sentences are experienced, rhyme and alliteration are recognised and enjoyed and most importantly, relationships are built and strengthened through the shared experience of a book as natural and meaningful conversations happen.

Some books are better than others when reading aloud. What we need to look for when reading to young children is books that have the three R’s, rhyme rhythm and repetition. Here is a beautiful example of the three R’s, an extract from Mem Fox’s book, ‘Tough Boris’.

...He was fearless. All pirates are fearless. He was scary. All pirates are scary. But when his parrot died, he cried and cried. All pirates cry and so do I.

A simple book that is fun, repetitious, has rhyme and rhythm and at the same time has an important, age appropriate comment about grieving the loss of a loved pet.

Some caregivers could read to their children all day long while others struggle with barriers that prevent them from enjoying this time with their children. Some barriers are lack of time or lack of confidence due to adult literacy issues or confidence with the English language. There are ways we can work around this to ensure our children are still getting rich language experiences.

How can we build daily reading into family life when we feel time is short and there’s so much to be done? How do we find the time to sit quietly, cuddled up with our child to focus on a book, this is the ideal, but if we can’t do this what can we do instead? We can begin to insert nursery rhymes, so important for language acquisition and speech development, into our daily habits. For example, we can recite, ‘One, two buckle my shoe...’ when putting shoes on or ‘Twinkle Twinkle...’ while carrying a child to bed or ‘Jack and Jill...’ when walking. If we add this language experience with its rhyme, rhythm and repetition we will give our children some of what they need for early literacy development.

Our own literacy difficulties or lack of confidence with a new language can impact on our ability to engage with children and books but it shouldn’t keep us from the shared language experience. Learning with children is one way to build our own skills and this can be done through audio books. Listening to nursery rhymes with the written text provides both reading and speaking practice opportunities to speak and read with fluency and expression. Listening to audio stories with your child again provides rich ground for conversation, vocabulary development and rewarding social connection. We all know how much children enjoy hearing the same stories repeatedly, this provides an opportunity for us to practice reading the same book again and again to build our own skill and fluency. We can also read and share books in our first language and tell our own childhood stories to our children which is what my mother did with me.

It’s never too early to start reading to your child. Here are some great authors to look out for: Pamela Allen, Mem Fox, Dr. Seuss, Eric Hill, Eric Carle, Martin Waddell, Lynley Dodd, Pat Hutchins. One last thing, read books to your child that you love to read, like any of the fabulous Hairy Maclary books!

Happy Reading and listening.



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, CIFS, EACH)
- Development and implementing collaborative Family Planning



For more information please call our main office on 6496 1918

Don't forget to check our website. You can access all our timetables or send us a message from your computer, tablet or phone.



Referrals

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

www.playability.com.au/referrals-forms

We can also link you up with our family support team. Please see above for details about their services or ring our office on 6496 1918.



Welcome to PlayAbility

Family Support



SUPPORTED PLAYGROUPS

TERM 3, 2023

Our Playgroups provide a safe and
inclusive environment to

PLAY LEARN GROW SOCIALISE



OUR
MEETING
PLACES



EDEN PLAYGROUP

Monday 10 am - 11.30 am

PlayAbility Centre

3 Crown Lane, Eden

COBARGO PLAYGROUP

Tuesday 10am - 11.30 am

Cobargo Apex Park

BEGA PLAYGROUP

Wednesday 10am - 11.30am

PlayAbility Cottage,

35 Parker St, Bega

ALL families with children aged 0-6 are
welcome, encouraged and accepted.

Call our office on 6496 1918





MOBILE TOY AND PARENTING RESOURCE SERVICE

TIMETABLE, TERM 3, 2023
ALL VISITS 8.45- 9.30AM

FREE SERVICE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
24th July Pambula PS	25th July Little Yuin PS	26th July Bandara
31st July Little Nippers	1st Aug FSCFS	2nd Aug Candelo PS
7th August MTK	8th Aug Bermagui PS	9th Aug Rocky Hall PS
14th August Eden LDC	15th Aug Cobargo PS	16th Aug Bandara LDC
21st August Pambula PS	22nd Aug Little Yuin PS	23rd Aug Candelo PS
28th August Little Nippers	29th Aug FSCFS	30th Aug Rocky Hall PS
4th Sept MTK	5th Sept Bermagui PS	6th Sept Bandara LDC
11-Sep Eden LDC	12th Sept Corbargo PS	13th Sept Candelo PS
18-Sep Pambula PS	19-Sep Little Yuin PS	20th Sept Rocky Hall PS

IF YOU SEE US OUT AND ABOUT, POP OVER FOR A YARN!
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL OUR OFFICE 6496 1918



Contact



Pregnancy, Birth and Baby Program

Commencing: Thursday the 20th
of July, 2023

Time: 10:00am—11:30am

Where: PlayAbility, 35 Parker St,
Bega

Tal Core - PlayAbility
0428 081 361
talco@playability.com.au

Jackie Wishart - Campbell page
0477 086 972
jacqueline.wishart@campbellpage.org.au

Sonya Spencer - Katungul
02 6492 0532
sonyas@katungul.org.au



About the Program

The Pregnancy, Birth and Baby Program is a free 12-week program (excluding school holidays) that targets woman in the last trimester of their pregnancy through to baby turning 8 months old.

Dads are also welcome to come along.

The program will continue to rotate every 12 weeks and is a collaboration of Playability, Campbell Page and Katungul with support from the following organisations.

Brighter Futures
Sapphire Neighbourhood Services
Department of Communities and Justice

Women's Domestic Violence
Court Advocacy Service
South East Regional Hospital -
mental health and midwife units

The Pregnancy, Birth and Baby program aims to:

- Support parents to develop parenting skills
- Connect parents to the community
- Parents are empowered with increased confidence to care for their baby
- Promote healthy outcomes and lifestyle choices for parents and their baby
- Provide support, education and information to help strengthen parent-child relationships
- Provide weekly health and weight checks for baby

Content

A range of topics will be covered in the program including:

Breastfeeding and / or Bottle Feeding

Nutrition and introducing solids

Settling your baby

General fitness post birth

Health, Wellbeing and self-care

Financial tips

Positive parenting

Healthy relationships

Child development and wellbeing

Emotional support when living away from friends and family

Responding to the needs of your baby