



## **MIAMI STATE SCHOOL**

### **Early Childhood Developmental Program (ECDP) POLICY**

#### **Program Philosophy**

Miami State School's Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) is co-ordinated by the Head of Special Education Services and staffed with a Special Education Teacher, Teacher Aide and Auslan staff for hearing impaired students.

The ECDP makes deliberate and well-informed decisions to promote and enrich children's holistic learning and development. We pride ourselves on building effective communications and respectful relationships with family, community and a professional to effectively monitor and assess children's who have a disability learning, and progress.

#### **ECDP Program**

Miami State School ECDP is a cluster facility which provides an Early Childhood developmental program for children with a disability from birth to pre-prep. Qualified Special Needs teachers and Teacher Aides provide significant educational support arising from a disability. They plan and implement a variety of programs to develop skills and behaviours to maximise student participation in future schooling.

Students are expected to attend their first year of formal schooling (Prep) at their local state school and teachers from the ECDP will liaise with these schools to ensure a successful transition.

Miami State School and the Department of Education Queensland are committed to providing all Queensland students with access to a quality education, including students with disability. Miami State School embraces the inclusive vision that "all" children experience learning.

All Queensland State schools are required to adhere to the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. Miami State School therefore makes reasonable adjustments to ensure students with disability are able to participate in education on the same basis as students without disability.

At Miami a range of early childhood intervention services are available to support children with additional learning needs prior to school entry. Early Childhood Development Programs and Services provide support to children who require intensive, multidisciplinary programs.

#### **Students with a Disability**

Our region provides Early Childhood Programs and Services to meet the needs of children with a disability who meet or are under suspicion of meeting criteria for one of the six disability categories of:

- Hearing Impaired (HI)
- Vision Impairment (VI)
- Speech Language Impairment (SLI)
- Intellectual Disability (ID)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Physical Impairment (PI)

## Early Childhood Intervention Services for Children Prior to School Age

Level of Support	Description	Programming Options
Universal – first layer of support	Educational support needs that can be met through a differentiated early childhood program with limited personalised adjustments	Provide capacity building support through access to external services e.g. Inclusion support agency.
Focussed – second layer of support	Educational support needs that can be met through a differentiated early childhood program and some focussed support for one or more learning areas.	<p>Access to therapy such as speech pathology services through Queensland Health or other providers.</p> <p>Some AVT support to universal early childhood programs such as kindergarten</p> <p>Support through advisory teachers such as through Inclusion Support Agency.</p>
Intensive – third layer of support	Requires an intensive multidisciplinary program focusing on support to remove the barriers to the child accessing and participating in an early childhood program and to maximise their future participation in schooling.	<p>Access to early childhood development programs and services. Support provided to universal early childhood education program through early childhood development programs and services.</p> <p>May access support through Disability Services and/or FaCHSIA funding.</p>

### **Program Focus**

Early Childhood Development Programs are centre-based programs that provide direct focussed teaching for children with a disability. The program may also provide outreach services for children with a disability to other educational settings including day care centres.

All children who access Early Childhood Development Programs and services will have an individualised program or service plan developed. The individualised plan will outline the teaching focus and support that is provided to the child.

Students are allocated sessions according to age and availability in liaison with the school.

## **Entry to the Program**

Education Queensland process for entry to an ECDP program is as follows:

- An intake committee meets every fortnight.
- Parents, Paediatrician and Speech Language Pathologist provide reports to this committee.
- When entry is approved a letter is sent to the parents.
- The child will then be enrolled at the nearest EQ ECDP.
- The EQ contact for referral to ECDP is as follows:

**Vicky Booth – Principal Education Officer: Student Services**

South East Region

Dept of Education, Training and Employment

Qld Government

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## **ECDP – Early Childhood Development Program**

Miami State School is a cluster facility for students from birth to 5 years for all disabilities in the mid-coast region. Our ECDP offers programs for students ranging from the age of 3 to 4 years with specialised staff working with the children and families. Co-ordination of the ECDP is managed by the HOSES.

Miami State School has an Enrolment Management Plan in place and parents are encouraged to attend their local school for the students prep year.

## **Useful links for Parents**

[www.education.qld.gov.au/student-services/learning/disability/parentguide](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/student-services/learning/disability/parentguide)

[www.deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood)