



ACT
Child
Development
Service

Child Development Service

Helping families to
support their children's
development

About us

At the **Child Development Service**, we help Canberra families who are worried about their children's development.

We provide free:

- › speech, physio and occupational therapy assessments for children from birth to 6 years old
- › autism assessments for children up to 12 years old
- › early intervention therapy services for eligible children.

Using our services

There are 3 ways to access our services.

- › Visit one of our drop-in clinics – this is the fastest way and you don't need a referral.
- › Fill out our contact form on our website.
- › Call us on 6207 8884.

If you are wanting an autism assessment you will need your paediatrician to make a referral to us. Our drop-in clinics can't do these assessments.

Contact us for more information:



[www.act.gov.au/community/families/
child-development-service](http://www.act.gov.au/community/families/child-development-service)



child.development@act.gov.au



Phone: 02 6207 8884

A program of



ACT
Government

Drop-in clinics for child development

Going to a free drop-in clinic is the quickest way for your child to see a speech pathologist, physiotherapist or occupational therapist. You don't need a referral.

You can't book an appointment though, so you may have to wait to see us. The waiting time will depend on the number of people ahead of you on the day.

At a drop-in clinic, you can:

- › have a 20-minute chat with a therapist about your child's development and any concerns you have
- › get advice and ideas to support your child's development
- › get information about other services that may be able to support you and your child.

After we have met with you and your child

After meeting with you and your child, we may recommend you have your child assessed more thoroughly. We can help you do this.

We can:

- › give you a referral to see one of our therapists
- › give you details of private providers who may be able to help you.

Which therapist do you need?

If you're not sure which therapist your child should see, you can call us on 6207 8884 or check the information below for examples of what each therapist does.

Speech pathologists

Help with communication skills

- › Talking
- › Understanding language
- › Stuttering
- › Social interactions

Can also help with feeding, chewing and swallowing for children over 8 weeks old. Feeding issues can't be checked at our drop-in clinics, so call us on 6207 8884.

Physiotherapists

Help with movement skills

- › Rolling
- › Sitting
- › Walking
- › Coordination

Occupational therapists

Help with skills needed for daily activities

- › Dressing, eating and using the toilet
- › Using small items like pencils
- › Reactions to sensory information that affect your child's ability to participate in things
- › Play skills



Drop-in clinic locations and times

You can come to any of our drop-in clinics. They are located in:

- › Belconnen: Child and Family Centre, 6 Luke Street, Holt.
- › Gungahlin: Child and Family Centre, 51 Ernest Cavanagh Street, Gungahlin.
- › Tuggeranong: Child and Family Centre, 159 Anketell Street, Greenway.
- › Weston Creek: Child Development Service, 26 Weingarth Street, Holder.

Our clinics run for a few hours each month during the school year. Find our latest times on our website or call us on 6207 8884.