

[Further information](#)

Islington Additional Needs & Disability Service

The Northern Health Centre
580 Holloway Road
London N7 6LB
Tel: 0203 316 1877
Fax: 0207 690 2860

[Patient advice and liaison service \(PALS\)](#)

If you have a question, compliment, comment or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.



Whittington Health
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
Phone: 020 7272 3070

Date published: 03/02/2017
Review date: 03/02/2019
Ref: C&YP/IANDS/EYDT/01

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EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Islington Additional Needs Disability Service

Information for parents



What is the Early Years Development Team?

The Early Years Development Team (EYDT) provides an integrated approach to the assessment, treatment, management and transition of children with physical disabilities, neurological disorders or developmental delay. The team focuses on working with children who are under 5 alongside their families.

The EYDT provides Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Dietetic assessment and intervention.

Assessment involves examining:

- Neurological / Physical Difficulties
- Developmental needs
- Seating / positioning
- Movement skills
- Hand function
- Play
- Sensory Processing
- Communication and Interaction
- Feeding (dysphagia)

Treatment may include the following:

- Individual hands-on therapy sessions
- Joint Multi-Disciplinary Therapy
- Blocks of therapy treatment with a therapist or Therapy assistant

- Group exercise sessions
- Hydrotherapy
- Equipment provision
- Education of parents / carers and nursery / school staff around your child's needs and recommendations on intervention

The EYDT can signpost to additional services within Islington for Early Years:

- Early Support Keyworkers regarding nursery, childcare, play and funding
- Family Support and Stay and Play sessions at local Children's Centres across Islington
- Benefits (via Voluntary Organisation support)
- Disabled Children's Team (Social Care)
- Education

Onward referral can also be made to the Social Communication Team, Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Team, help support transition into school and Mainstream school services.

What to expect?

A valid referral from a doctor / health care professional is required. Unfortunately, we cannot accept self-referrals. We will inform you of your child's appointment date and time.

If you need to change the appointment you must give at least 24 hours' notice so that we can book someone else in instead of you.

Please note, if you do not attend the appointment, your referral will be at risk of discharge.

At your appointment, the therapist will ask you questions about your child's needs and lifestyle.

Treatment options can vary greatly depending on your child's individual needs but often include a specific home therapy programme and advice. It is important to follow this advice to see changes in your child's development and management of their needs.

During the Therapy assessment and treatment process we will liaise with relevant doctors / health professionals involved in your child's care.

What do I need to bring with me?

- An adult (legally we require written consent from a parent or carer)
- Any letters from other medical or health professionals
- List of medications