

Community and Family Support at Lake Windemere

Community Development Coordinators

The Community Development program coordinates services to enhance parenting and community capacity.

Community Development Coordinators apply their knowledge and understanding of community strengths, needs and aspirations to provide and coordinate flexible and locally tailored services that engage families.

Community Development Coordinators aim to:

- connect families with other families, community activities and learning, and health and support services that best meet their needs.
- facilitate opportunities for families to increase their knowledge and skills around parenting and childhood development.
- support parents to develop personally and build their leadership skills.
- encourage families and staff to have a strong voice about the programs and services offered.

Programs and services

Community development coordinators work in partnership with other agencies to facilitate a range of programs and services including:

- playgroups for parents and carers that include Aboriginal families, dads, step-parents, grandparents, foster carers, family day care educators, refugees and newly arrived families and children
- parenting programs that include child development, early literacy, song time, music and movement, baby massage, support groups and cooking
- community events including family fun days, community lunches, school holiday programs, cultural events, celebrations and barbecues
- personal development to enhance literacy, career pathways, skill development, volunteering, TAFE and SACE studies.

Family Services Coordinators

Family services coordinators work with parents, centre staff and other agencies to help families develop and maintain safe, caring, connected and resilient relationships.

Family services coordinators:

- create local networks and connect families with services and supports that best meets their needs
- build parenting capacity and early childhood development skills and knowledge, specifically in understanding the importance of relationships for children
- encourage and support families to actively participate within their community
- increase access to a range of interconnected learning, health and support services
- build centre staff expertise in responding to children experiencing the effects of trauma, abuse and neglect.

Family Services Coordinator activities

Family services coordinators perform activities including:

- short-term counselling to identify and respond to personal issues

- connecting families with appropriate services that deal with domestic violence, housing, drug and alcohol problems, mental health and follow up and advocacy
- working with Families SA to assist children in out-of-home care to be reunified with their parents or to facilitate positive connections with their parents and extended family.
- parenting programs with a focus on relationships, social and emotional wellbeing and trauma, such as the Circle of Security and Bringing up Great Kids.

Allied Health Program

The allied health program supports early intervention for children aged birth to 3 years to minimise developmental delays. The program builds the capacity of children's centre preschool staff to identify children at risk of developmental delay, and supports staff and parents in promoting child development.

Allied Health Staff

Allied health staff are:

- speech pathologists, who assist with all aspects of communication including speech, language, literacy, signs, symbols and gestures and can also assist with issues around eating and drinking
- occupational therapists, who support children's participation in and performance of daily activities involving the strengthening of play skills, fine and gross motor skills, concentration and self-regulation skills.

Allied health staff build the capacity of staff, parents and carers of the centre through:

- staff consultation and training on topics such as sensory processing and strategies for assisting children with behavioural, emotional and sensory regulation, resource development, screening, assessments and programming assistance
- parenting groups, parent consultation, referrals and distribution of resources to assist children with toileting, feeding, play, speech and language skills.



There are many other programs and services to support families which include:

- Kids Blokes and Dad Jokes
- Antenatal Services
- Financial Counselling
- Playgroup
- Parenting support
- And more

