

All Enquiries

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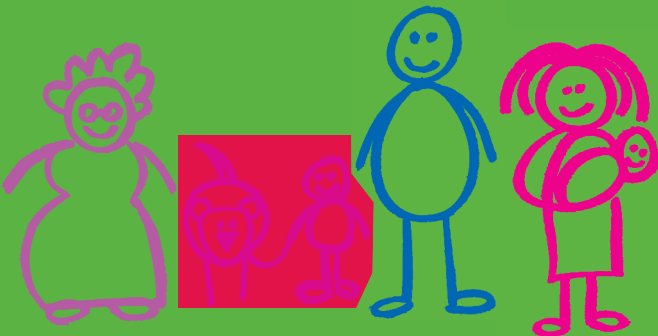
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Contacts

- Hildegard Grant – General Manager
(mobile) 027 438 5392
- Jan Egan – Clinical Manager
(mobile) 0275 667 932
- Michelle Fagan – Clinical Supervisor
(mobile) 0275 678 135
- Margaret Coberger – Clinical Supervisor
(mobile) 0276 005 639
- Heather Davidson – Clinical Supervisor
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Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm



Governance

Early Start Project Ltd is a charitable company and was formed in 1995. It is governed by a board of directors consisting of a consortium of health care professionals and community members:

- Mrs. Shelley McCauley – Chairperson
Business Advisor
- Professor David Fergusson
Christchurch Health and Development Study
- Ashley Seaford
Work and Income
- Dr. Lynda Gray
Pegasus Medical Group
- Mrs. Kiwa Hutchen
Kaumatua
- Mrs. Terehia Kipa
Kaumatua
- Anne Feld
Plunket Canterbury
- Dr. Clive Wilson
Registered Psychologist
- Irihapeti Rupene
Mana Whenua



Early Start major funders are:

*Ministry of Social Development
Canterbury District Health Board,
Child Youth and Family,*

Strengthening Families and various generous supporters.

Early Start thanks Telecom, UMC and NZ Fire Service for their sponsorship.

Early Start Atawhaitia nga pepe

“Nurture the baby early”

Early Start encourages and supports families to provide each of their children with a positive and enjoyable childhood experience.



The Service

Early Start is offered to Christchurch families with newborn babies, where social and family circumstances may put at risk the health and well-being of their children. The

service provided is free, long term and home based and promotes healthy child development within a nurturing family environment.

Families participate on a voluntary basis and are provided with intensive support and assistance by professionally qualified and well-supervised Family/Whanau Support Workers.

In a planned and focused way families are encouraged and supported to:

- Recognise their strengths, supports and challenges
- Discover new ways to manage problems and difficulties
- Formulate individual goals relevant to their culture, environment and capacity
- To make positive parenting decisions. Every enrolled family is expected to participate in the home based parenting programmes offered by Early Start
- Make healthy lifestyle choices, including family and child nutrition
- Be safety aware as baby grows and develops
- To find and link into other services in their community, i.e. budget and/or health services
- Celebrate success and maintain positive change over time

Referral Criteria

Christchurch families, who are willing to participate and who are facing two or more of the following challenges are eligible for referral to Early Start:

- Young mother under 18 years of age
- Limited support
- Minimal antenatal care
- Economic disadvantage
- Lack of essential resources
- Compromised social skills
- Little or no formal educational qualifications
- Limited experience or skills in parenting
- Past Child, Youth and Family involvement
- Mental health problems – e.g. depression, anxiety
- Involvement in the Criminal Justice System
- Addictions – drug, alcohol, gambling
- Relationship problems – family violence, conflict, lack of support

Referral Process

Referrals for assessment can be made for young mothers under 24 years from 3 months antenatal to 9 months postnatal. For mothers over 24 years from 6 months antenatal to 9 months postnatal:

- Plunket Nurses
- Midwives
- General Practitioners
- Public Health Nurses
- Self or Family/Whanau Members
- Maori Organisations
- Hospital Services
- Child Youth and Family
- Pacific Island Organisations
- Others (eg Barnardos, pre-schools)

Referral Packs are available on request and we can send these either by: fax, email or post. On receipt of a referral the client family will go onto our waiting list and the referrer will be notified of the expected waiting time.

