

Position Description:

Therapists Early Childhood Intervention/FaHCSA



Role Title: Therapist	Department or Function: Service Delivery
Reports to: Area Manager & Children's Services Manager	Location: Centre Based & Itinerant

ROLE PURPOSE

To provide professional Early Intervention Services to those children and families attending Lifestart.
To provide professional therapy services to children who receive FaHCSIA funding for the HCWA or Better Start Programs.
Work with families so as to strengthen their ability to make decisions regarding their child.

General Responsibilities

All staff are required to:

- Comply with Lifestart and other relevant standards for service provision.
- communicate effectively with families in response to their priorities and concerns.
- work holistically so that everyone in the family enjoys their involvement with Lifestart activities.
- work as a member of a transdisciplinary team, participating in the exchange of knowledge and skills among team members.
- document program goals and outcomes that are clear to families and other team members.
- work collaboratively with staff from other agencies in support of family priorities and needs, in ways which promote clear communication and effective partnerships,
- contribute to smooth transitions for families who are accessing new services, including families who are leaving Lifestart.
- develop and extend their professional knowledge.
- work flexibly in response to family needs.
- access interpreters where required.
- prepare and/or present workshops, as required, to families and other professionals, in consultation with the Area Manager,
- participate in all-of-Lifestart staff meetings, plus branch and special purpose meetings as required.
- participate in community and professional networks.

Therapists will:

- be responsible to their Area Manager and/or Children's Services Manager.
- conduct regular assessments of each child's abilities, in partnership with families and other team members.
- participate in the development of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) for each family, taking a co-ordination role if required.
- develop Individual Education Programs (IEP's) that reflect priorities established through IFSP Process.
- monitor, record and evaluate each child's progress.
- plan and run group sessions, including playgroups and small, special purpose groups, in partnership with other staff and families taking a leading role if required.
- work in partnership with the family, school age services team, school staff and, where relevant, Department of Education and Training transition staff towards a smooth transition to school, particularly during the child's last year before school and first term of the first year at school.
- work in partnership with the family and preschool or child-care staff to ensure a smooth transition to preschool or childcare, and offer ongoing collaboration in support of the family's goals for their child across all settings.
- give appropriate advice to families making enquiries and/or on the waiting list regarding resources available to them, including other services for which they are eligible.

Essential Competencies:

- Degree in Speech Pathology / Occupational Therapy / Physiotherapy
- Eligible for membership of the appropriate professional body
- Practical experience in paediatrics
- Experience working with children with ASD and other disabilities
- Experience working with families of children with disabilities
- Private Motor Vehicle and current Drivers Licence
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Basic IT Literacy

Desirable Criteria

- Experience in Family Centred Practice
- Demonstrate understanding of augmentative communication practices
- Hanen training
- PECS training

Approved by: Suzanne Becker, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 30 May 2011