



2025

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAMS

Early Intervention – 0-6 years (Autism and development delay)

ConneXtions is registered to deliver early intervention supports and employs a team of dedicated and skilled professionals experienced in early childhood education and autism to deliver the early years program either individually and/or as a group.

ConneXtions operates and follows the National Guidelines for Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention (Early Childhood Intervention Association 2016) and these guidelines form the foundations of everything we do. The guidelines highlight four quality areas, comprising of eight key best practices:

Family

- Family centred and strength based
- Culturally responsive

Inclusion

- Inclusive and participatory
- Engaged child in natural environments

Teamwork

- Collaborative
- Capacity building practice

Universal principles

- Evidence-based and accountable
- Outcomes based



Early Years Group Program

0-6 years

This program runs for 20 weeks, with children attending a weekly session for three hours, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Sessions are available on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday, depending on availability. The cost is dependent on the number of children in the group, but it is usually at a ratio of 1:3.

Cost breakdown

CB: Early Childhood Supports – Early Childhood Professional
15_005_0118_1_3

A: Key Worker

- Individual (1 hour individually a week)
- 1 hour \$193.99 a week x 20 weeks = \$3879.80 per child

B: Practitioner - Session Times (group)

- Child Ratio 1:3 - (3 hour) Practitioner/Therapist = \$64.66 an hour x 3 hours = \$193.99 a week per child x 20 weeks = \$3879.80 per child

Total cost

CB: Early Childhood Supports – Early Childhood Professional
15_005_0118_1_3

A: Practitioner Key Worker \$3879.80 for 20 weeks

B: Practitioner Group sessions \$3879.80 for 20 weeks

Total: \$ 7759.60 per term x 2 = \$15,519.20 for 40 weeks (equates to \$96.99 an hour)

Additional supports

ConneXtions also offers 1:1 supports for some children who require more intensive support. This option can be discussed with the therapist and/or the intake team.

Positive Behaviour Support – 1:1 Intensive Sessions

The intensive programs are developed to provide 1:1 intervention and positive behaviour support for children under 18 years with autism.

The intensive sessions provide an individualised program, developed and overseen by a registered specialist behaviour practitioner and supported by early childhood, special education and allied health assistants. These are delivered over 10 weeks (in two hour blocks) during Victorian school terms.

These sessions support the individual social and emotional skill development in accordance with NDIS goals and intended outcomes.

Program structure

A: Key worker – practitioner

A registered practitioner is allocated five hours a term to conduct the initial meeting, develop goals and success criteria, conduct observations, training and report as profiled against the outcome measures.

B: Session time - advanced practitioner (behaviour support)

The sessions are implemented by early childhood, special education and allied health assistants who are advanced practitioner experienced in autism. The weekly sessions are (2 hour) face-to-face and (30 minutes) non face-to-face.

C: Planning

There is also 30 minutes for planning, multidisciplinary meetings, individual assessments interventions a week

Cost breakdown (per term)

A: Practitioner time

- CB: Improved Relationships Specialist Behaviour Therapy (\$111.45 a week = \$1114.50 for 10 weeks); or,
- CB: Improved Daily Living – Other Professional (\$96.99 a week = \$969.95 for 10 weeks)

B: Session - advanced practitioner

- CB: Improved Daily Living (Allied Health Assistant Level 2) \$86.79 a week x 2.5 hours x 10 weeks = \$2169.75; or
- CB: Relationships Individual social skill development \$77.00 x 2.5hrs x 10 weeks = \$1925.00

If additional staff is required, ie 2:1, this will be costed into the session to reflect individual need and NDIS stated supports.

C: Planning

- CB: Improved Daily Living (30 minutes a week = \$43.39 a week for 10 weeks = \$433.90; or
- CB: Improved Relationships (40 minutes a week = \$51.33 a week for 10 weeks = \$513.33)

Total cost

The program can depend on the category allocated in the participant's NDIS plan. Additional resources to create social stories and/or visual aids will be costed individually and outlined in the service agreement.

CB: Improved Daily Living

Total \$3573.60 for 10-week program (\$357.36 a week)

CB: Early Childhood Supports – Early Childhood Professional
(15_005_0118_1_3)

CB: Assessment Recommendation Therapy or Training – Other
Professional (15_056_0128_1_3)

CB: Improved Relationships

Total \$ 3549.78 for 10 weeks (\$354.98 a week)

Functional Capacity Assessment (social and emotional)

A Functional Assessment is an ongoing process of collecting information with a goal of identifying a person's abilities, support needs and strategies for the development of new skills.

It is a collaborative process that combines observing, asking meaningful questions, listening to experiences of people who support the person, and analysing individual skills and behaviours within naturally occurring everyday routines and activities across multiple situation and settings.

The Standardised Assessments completed include the following:

- Vineland 3 Adaptive Behaviour Assessment
- SSIS Social Skills Inventory Scale
- Social Responsiveness Scale
- Development Behaviour Scale
- Sensory Checklist
- Stress Inventory

A report is provided that outlines and analyses the data to support the development of individual plans and goals for the child and are completed prior to commencement in social learning.



Cost

CB: Improved Daily Living 15_056_028_1_3

Assessment Recommendation therapy or Training – Other Professional

(Behaviour Therapist and/or Special Educator and/or Early Childhood Teacher)

16 hours \$193.99 = Total \$3103.84

CB: Improved Relationships 11_022_0110_7_3

Specialist Positive Behaviour Support Practitioner

This is inclusive of:

- Observations of group interactions across several environments;
- Family and professional meetings as required;
- Analysis of the data;
- Functional Capacity Report
- Development of individual goals and expected outcomes

It is completed for all participants as part of the development and delivery of the (Behaviour Support) program and/or Social Learning Programs delivered by multidisciplinary team.

Functional Behaviour Assessment and Training

Is an NDIS requirement when a behaviour support plan needs to be registered with the NDIS Quality and Safeguard Commission. When ConneXtions is the nominated provider, higher intensity supports are requested, and additional training and support needs are required.

CB: Relationships funding is used to complete the assessment and guide the development and implementation of positive support plan to improve quality of life.

Social Learning

From the outside, social learning looks like kids playing and having fun (and they are), but the reason why they are so tired when they get home is because they also have been hard at work learning.

New skills they have been learning include:

- Turn taking and waiting
- Sharing
- Accepting no
- Requesting a break
- Joining in a group and playing together
- Asking for help
- Waiting for something they really want to do
- Sticking at something they don't really like
- Finishing a task
- Making friends
- Packing away
- Regulating their body, emotions and behaviours

From this, we see the following outcomes:

- Self-awareness
- Social awareness
- Self-management
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision making



Social Learning

- Group Sessions

Social Learning sessions are run from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the Victorian school terms. Sessions are delivered at our Children's Services site in Moorefield Park, Wodonga.

2025 dates

Term 1 - Monday, 27th January – 4th April

Term 2 - Monday, 21st April – 4th July

Term 3 - Monday, 21st July – 19th September

Term 4 - Monday, 9th October – 19th December

The Social Learning Program is delivered by a multidisciplinary team made up of specialist behaviour practitioners, early childhood educators, teachers and special education practitioners, with input from speech therapists and/or occupational therapists as required.

Each participant is supported at a 1:2 ratio, although at times they may require 1:1 support depending on their individual needs each session.

Social learning sessions like everything in the NDIS must relate to a person's goals, represent value for money and support increasing a participant's social and/or economic participation and inclusion.

Social learning was designed specifically to assist children on the Autism spectrum to learn and practice social and emotional skills necessary to manage daily life.

How Social Learning is funded

Each participant's plan is different, and we are asked by families, support coordinators and plan managers to often take the funding from several categories in order to maximise a person's plan and to assist families to utilise their funding over a range of services.

To assist, we have outlined the categories that the funding can be allocated to help you/your plan manager and/or support coordinator to ensure that the services and products are able to be purchased for your NDIS plan.

Fees and charges

Please note that it is not our role as a provider to determine the way that you utilise your plan, and we do not have access to current allocated funding. Therefore, all service agreements must be approved by the participant's nominee, their support coordinator and/or plan manager.

We are often requested to change our invoices and claim from different categories throughout the course of a participant's plan. It is therefore important that you understand the costs of the services, and allocate the funding with consideration of other services that you may be accessing to ensure that you are getting the services that you need, are related to your individual circumstances and represent value for money, individual needs, goals and intended outcomes.



How services are costed

Our services are designed in accordance with the NDIS pricing and costing limits, and our aim is to provide each participant with value for money. We are aware that our services can be claimed from a number of categories under the NDIS.

To assist you, your support coordinator and/your plan manager, we have provided a breakdown of the costs and line items that can be accessed.

CB: Improved Daily Living

A. Practitioner – Therapist – Other (15_056_0128_1_3)

- Each child who attends is charged 30 minutes of a practitioner time a week. This cost is part of the delivery costs of running the program and supports the development, review, planning, reporting, family meetings, individual time (depending on child's need), team meetings to assist with goal attainment and individual follow up for each child a week.

COST \$96.99 a week x 10 weeks = \$969.90 a term

B. Allied Health Assistants – (face to face) 1:2 rate 15_053_0128_1_3

- Each child is charged \$43.39 an hour or \$86.79 for the 2-hour session weekly

COST \$86.79 a week x 10 weeks = \$867.90 a term

Please note that most terms are approximately 10 weeks and we do not charge public holidays.

C. Allied Health Assistants – (non-face to face) 1:2 rate

15_053_0128_1_3

- Each child is charged 2 hours of non-face-to-face a week at the 1:2 rate \$43.39 = \$86.79 a week

COST \$86.79 a week x 10 weeks = \$867.90 a term

This is for resource development, meetings, case notes, reviews, planning, pack up and set up and individual support and assistance, visuals and social stories as required.

B+C - This equates to four hours cost (two hours of face to face and two hours of non-face to face a week) at the 1:2 rate a week.

Cost

A: Practitioner - \$96.99 per week

B: Allied Health Assistant - \$86.79 face to face per week

C: Allied Health Assistant - \$86.79 non-face to face per week

Total = \$2705.70 per term = \$270.57 per week (equates \$135.28 per hour, per participant)

FOUR TERMS: \$10,822.80 a year

Other line items that may be used (please check with your plan managers as to available funding and categories):

CB: Improved Relationships 11 _ 023_0110_7_3

Specialist Behaviour - 30 minutes a week (**\$111.49 a week**)

11_024_0117_7_3

Individual Skill Development \$77 an hour x 2.5 hours = \$192.50

Total \$2787.00 a term (\$278.70 a week)

CB: Increased Social and Community Participation 09_011_025_6_3

Total \$2705.70 a term (\$270.57 a week)

Social and Community Activities

04_600_0104_6_1 Group Activities (High Intensity)

The hourly rate is \$73.09 an hour and/or \$36.54 per hour x 2 hours face to face and 2 hours non-face to face = **\$146.16 a week**

04_599_0136_6_1 Centre Capital Cost \$2.53 an hour x 2 hours = **\$5.06 a session**

You would also need to add:

CB: Improved Daily Living (15_056_0128_1_3)

30 minutes a week x 10 weeks = **\$96.99 a week** if you are accessing core supports for the practitioner engagement over the term.

Social Learning

- Extension Program

This program is delivered over six hours a day during the Victorian school term breaks, depending on staff availability. Longer sessions are available for children who need to practice their skills over an extended period of time. These sessions involve new groups of children.

Outcomes

- Self awareness
- Social awareness
- Self management
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision making

You may be able to use core support for these sessions.

Social and Community Activities

04_600_0104_6_1 Group Activities (High Intensity)

The hourly rate is \$73.09 an hour and/or \$36.54 per hour x 6 hours face to face and 1 hour non-face to face = 7 hours a day

04_599_0136_6_1 Centre Capital Cost \$2.53 an hour x 2 hours = \$5.06 a session

Cost for Social Learning Extension programs (6 hours) is

- 6 hours face to face 1:2 rate
- 1 hour 1: 1 rate
- Plus 1 hour non face to face at 1:2 and/or 1:1
- Activity based Transport 30 kms

Total cost 1:2 = \$300.96 a session

Secret Agent Society (8 - 12 years)

This evidence-based program has been transforming the lives of children around the world for more than a decade.

Prepare your child for life's social and emotional challenges in a fun and effective way.

The SAS small group program will capture and engage your child's attention through spy-themed gamified learning. With strong evidence-based underpinning the program, it has demonstrated effectiveness in improving four key life skills:

1. Emotional Recognition (in self and others)
2. Emotional Regulation) particularly anxiety and anger)
3. Social Problem Solving
4. Social Skills (for friendship and teamwork)

The program is delivered in a block of 8 – 10 sessions. There are up to four children per group.

Cost is \$3200 per term



Dates for 2025

- Term 1 – Monday (1pm-3pm), Thursday (9am-11am)
- Term 2 - Monday (1pm-3pm), Thursday (9am-11am)
- Term 3 - Monday (1pm-3pm), Thursday (9am-11am)
- Term 4 - Monday (1pm-3pm), Thursday (9am-11am)

Further information is available at
www.secretagentsociety.com

About our Products and Services

Children's Services

ConneXtions is a registered NDIS and not-for-profit provider. Our services and products are designed and costed to ensure that we deliver quality services that are evidenced based, are reasonable and necessary and represent value for money. The fees and charges are in accordance with the NDIS Price Guide and intent of the NDIS principles and guidelines.

As a capacity building provider, we aim to build the social and emotional skills young people need to function effectively in the community so that they can attend school, develop friendships, maintain relationships, regulate and manage their behaviour.

Capacity Building Categories

ConneXtions has costed our supports and services based on the Practitioner and Allied Health Assistant rates that participants need to confirm. As a registered NDIS provider, ConneXtions is registered to deliver services under a range of categories including:

CB: Improve Daily Living

15_053_0128_1_3 (Therapy Assistant Level 2)

15_056_0128_1_3 (Assessment Therapy and Training -Other

15_622_0128_1_3 Assessment Therapy or Training – Speech Therapy

15_621_0128_1_3 Assessment Therapy or Training – Social Work

15_617_0128_1_3 Assessment Therapy or Training – Occupational Therapy

15_005_0118_1_3 Early childhood Supports – Early Childhood Professional

15_008_0118_1_3 Early Childhood Supports – Therapy Assistant – Level 2

CB: Improved Relationships

11_023_0110_7_3 (Behaviour Management Plan including training in Behaviour Management Strategies)
Specialist Positive Behaviour Support

11_024_0117_7_3 (Individual Skill Development)
Development of Daily Living skills

11_022_0110_7_3 (Specialist Behaviour Intervention Support)
Specialist Positive Behaviour Support
Behaviour Support (PACE)

Please note that for PACE Participants this is called Behaviour Support (change October 2024)

CB: Increased Social and Community Participation

09_011_0125_6_3 (Community Participation Activities)

Core

Social and Community Participation

04_450_0136_1_1 (Group and Centre Based Activities)
Intensive and Complex Behaviour Support line item

Fees and Charges

In costing the products and services we are mindful of ensuring that the costs associated with the delivery of the services and breakdown are as transparent as possible not only reflecting the cost but the relevant line items and categories in the participant's plan.

Registered Provider

ConneXtions is audited throughout the year to ensure that we are doing the right thing. We have both Quality Audits, NDIS Audits and Financial Audits annually. The organisation is proud to be a registered provider as it provides you as the consumer with assurance that we are committed to designing and delivering quality services.

Challenges

One of the challenges that we have is keeping up with the constant NDIS changes, especially when plans have not been reviewed for some time and/or have been rolled over and funding categories not changed. We need to be able to communicate to Planners, Plan Managers and nominees about the how the services that we delivered are constructed , the costs of the services and where the funding can be taken from, so that you can make an informed choice about the services that are going to make a difference to you and your child, reflect the intention of their Plan and represent value for the money.

Role of Plan Managers

The Role of a Plan Managers is to ensure that the services providers that you are accessing are delivering services in line with the NDIS plan and that you have the funds available to pay for the services and from which category that you can pay these from.

Role of Participant/Nominee

Connexions would like to advise that the responsibility of ensuring that you have the relevant funding available in the categories to purchase services is your responsibility to ensure that your plan managers can assist you with providing you with the information about where the funding can be accessed. We ask that you get approval from your plan manager as part of the service agreement process to ensure that there are no surprises ad if so that these can be resolved prior to commencement.



Role of Planners

The Planners work for the NDIA and are charged with making decisions about what is and what is not funded by the NDIS. It is important that the Planners have the information that they need to be able to make the decisions that translate into funding based on individual needs and assessments. The planners make decisions based on the impact of the disability on a person's life and how much funding that they can approve to support a person to increase a person's capacity to increase their ability to actively participate socially and economically in their community. Every Child is different and so are the NDIS allocated funding.

It is important that the planners have the information that supports access to the Capacity Building programs that we offer and the outcomes that are achieved in supporting social and emotional skill development.

Service Agreements

It is really important that you as a participant understand the costs and the categories that your funding is coming from. We understand that this is difficult, but it is important for you to know the costs of the services that you are requesting.

We do require confirmation from yourself and your plan managers that you have the funding available and require consent to speak to your plan manager in relation to confirming the funding available prior to your attendance at any program or activity

If you have any issues with this, please contact us so that we can ensure that all the stakeholders are aware of the costs and the services and the categories so that invoicing and claiming is understood by all parties.