Preschool Development Clinic

Assessing children aged three to five years with developmental problems that could have an effect on emerging learning and behavioural skills
The Preschool Development Clinic at The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH) assesses children aged three to five years with developmental variations that could have an effect on emerging learning and behavioural skills.

The aim of the clinic is to identify risks to:

- successful childcare/preschool-kindergarten experience
- transition to school
- development of academic and social/emotional skills in the early years of school.

You will be bulk billed for your appointment. This means you will need a referral from your doctor.

The Preschool Development Clinic is held weekly.

**Preschool development**

Between the ages of three and five, children are developing rapidly. At this stage of life, significant variations across the range of developmental domains can have an impact on children’s progress through this critical period. Developmental delays or specific developmental disorders will also have a significant impact.

Your child will be assessed by a paediatrician to identify risk and resilience factors, make a specific diagnosis if relevant, and develop a management plan for parents to work in partnership with community providers.

The clinic will link with community-based early childhood services, speech pathology, occupational therapy, psychology and primary care nurses and doctors to advise about coordinated management in your local community.

Medical tests, diagnosis, treatment plans and referrals will be performed as appropriate.

This clinic is not a multidisciplinary diagnostic clinic, (e.g. autism) but will make such referrals if appropriate.

**Preschool Development Clinic staff**

- consultant paediatricians
- senior paediatric trainees
- clinic coordinators

There might be teaching and research activities in the clinic while you are there.

**Appointments**

**Making an appointment**

You can make an appointment by faxing a referral to (03) 9345 5034.

Before making the appointment:

- **Do you have a referral from a doctor?**

  You must have a referral and you must send your referral to us (fax to 03 9345 5034) before you can make an appointment. A referral from your GP is valid for 12 months and a referral from a specialist is valid for three months.

(continued overleaf)