



Learning through play

Who is this free programme for?

- Children under 6 who have or are likely to receive a diagnosis of autism and are not receiving 15 hours of support per week
- They can be referred through their early childhood setting; be currently on a waitlist for Ministry of Health or Ministry of Education; or already receiving support through either of these agencies
- Alternatively, parents can do a self-referral

What families/whānau will learn

- How play is the key element of child development
- How YOU can make a difference in the child's development
- How to use the everyday activities and routines of whānau to develop:
*Communication · Connection · Sharing attention · Imitating · Having fun
Planning and problem solving · Life skills, transitions, and routines*

How the course is structured

- **Pre course visit** – *getting to know your Play Coach*
- **Learning Session 1: The basics of play** – Followed by **Home visit 1**
- **Learning Session 2: Following your child's lead** – Followed by **Home visit 2**
- **Learning Session 3: Using everyday routines**
- Following the 3 learning sessions there will be 3 weekly visits to help you use these strategies
- Finally, as a group celebration we will come together to share the things we have learnt and meet each other's tamariki.

The Let's Play Programme Evaluation

The Let's Play Programme is part of a wider research project, led by Associate Professor Laurie McLay at the University of Canterbury. Within this research, the team are evaluating the Let's Play Programme to ensure that it is beneficial for children and families/whānau, and to inform ongoing development of this programme. As such, families/whānau will be required to participate in the programme evaluation.

The research team will get in touch with families/whānau who have expressed an interest in the Let's Play Programme to provide more information about what the research involves. Meanwhile, any urgent questions regarding the research can be directed to Laurie McLay:

laurie.mclay@canterbury.ac.nz; (03) 369 3522

If you are interested, please email earlysteps@autismnz.org.nz for more information or fill in the service request form overleaf. Alternatively, you can complete the [online referral form](#).

Autism New Zealand EarlySteps Office

597 Rosebank Road
Avondale
Auckland 1026

P: 021 190 3175
E: earlysteps@autismnz.org.nz
W: autismnz.org.nz

PO Box 33481
Petone, Lower Hutt
Wellington 5046



Service request form

This service is for children under 6 who have or are likely to receive a diagnosis of autism and are not receiving 15 hours of support per week. They can be referred through their parent or early childhood setting; be currently on a waitlist for Ministry of Health or Ministry of Education; or already receiving support through either of these agencies.

Do you have parental consent to refer this child? Yes No

Child's Name: _____ Birth date _____ Sex M/F

Parent's/guardian's name _____

Home address _____

City _____ Postal code _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Ethnicity _____ Language spoken at home _____

ECE Centre _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Person making referral _____ Role _____

Referral contact phone number _____

Signature/title of professional _____ Date _____

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