



STaR Outreach



What is STaR Outreach?

STaR Outreach connects the expertise of the STaR team to community educational services and families of young children. Our experts have high-level knowledge and skills in special education within early childhood and school contexts, and in support for families of children with special learning needs. We are experienced in working in a collaborative consultancy model in which the knowledge and skills of the family are recognised along with those of the professionals involved.

What Outreach packages are available? (see more details overleaf)

For ages 0-5

The following three packages assist young children with disabilities or special learning needs to develop important skills and to be more successfully included in their educational programs. The staff of the child's early childhood service or school MUST agree to be involved and to collaborate with STaR.

- ★ **Inclusion to Belong and Learn** - 10 sessions, in early childhood settings
- ★ **Get Ready for School** - 10 sessions, in early childhood settings in the year before school
- ★ **Transition into School** - 8 sessions, in the child's proposed school, ideally spanning the period before and after school entry (*Get Ready for School* is a pre-requisite)

For ages 5-8 (with the school's agreement)

- ★ **K-2 Classroom Support** - a package negotiated according to the specific needs of the child in the school/classroom context (children do not need to have accessed STaR services previously)

For ages 0-8

- ★ **Outreach Consultancy** – a package negotiated for families or educational settings on any of a range of issues regarding the education and care of young children with disabilities or special learning needs, including giftedness

What does Outreach cost?

- ★ Fee for service
- ★ Families who are eligible for *Helping Children with Autism* or *Better Start* funding through the Australian Government's Department of Social Services (DSS) can use this funding for Outreach services. STaR is an approved provider under this scheme. For eligibility see DSS website:

www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/disability-and-carers/program-services/for-people-with-disability/overview-of-early-intervention-services-and-supports



What is STaR?

The STaR (Special Teaching and Research) Association Inc is a not-for-profit organisation with strong links to Macquarie University, which ensures that our practices are based on the latest research. We believe that children with disabilities or special learning needs should have access to inclusive early childhood education and that they and their educators need additional support to get the most from an inclusive environment. Our highly trained special educators provide this support. STaR also offers professional learning workshops to increase educators' knowledge and skills – see <http://www.star.org.au/about-star/professional-learning/>

Inclusion to Belong and Learn (with the agreement of the child's service).

A trained STaR special educator assists the staff of the early childhood service to more successfully include the child and develop important skills. She visits the early childhood service, usually weekly over 10 sessions of approximately 1.5 hours, and works with the staff and child.

The package involves

- ★ assessment of the child's development and inclusion in the centre context
- ★ collaborative design (family, centre and STaR together) of an individual program
- ★ guidance to implement the program within everyday play activities and routines
- ★ monitoring and updating of the child's program
- ★ attendance for one staff member at a STaR professional learning workshop of the centre's choice

Cost: \$2,200 (no GST)

Get Ready for School (with the agreement of the child's service)

The aim of this package is to give children with disabilities or special learning needs the skills that are critical for success in school. It is based on research evidence and STaR's experience with hundreds of children over more than 12 years.

In the year before school, a trained STaR special educator visits the early childhood service to provide a functional and individualised program to prepare the child for school. It occurs over 10 sessions and involves

- ★ assessment of the child's school readiness skills
- ★ design of an Individual School Preparation Plan (ISPP)
- ★ implementation of the ISPP (shared by the STaR special educator and childcare staff, with guidance)
- ★ monitoring/updating of the ISPP

Cost: \$2,200 (no GST)

Transition into School (with the agreement of the child's proposed school).

The aim of this package is to prepare the child, the family and the staff of the proposed school so that the transition to school is as successful as possible.

Following the child's *Get Ready for School* program, the STaR special educator provides 8 sessions of support for the child, family and school. Through these sessions

- ★ Families learn about school options and enrolment. They are also supported in the initial school Learning and Support Team meeting.
- ★ The child is supported during planned visits to the school and becomes familiar with people, places and expectations. These supported visits take place before the child starts school, or some visits can be scheduled in Term 1 of the school year.
- ★ The classroom teacher gets to know the child and learns strategies to assist the transition.

Cost: \$2,500 (no GST) Note: the family transports the child to and from the school visits.

K-2 Classroom Support (with the agreement of the child's school).

A STaR special educator provides support according to the specific issues identified by the classroom teacher in consultation with the family (e.g., behaviour, academic learning). The cost of the package is negotiated with the family.

Outreach Consultancy (to families, early childhood services and schools).

STaR has expertise in working with children who have the following additional needs:

- ★ Disability, including Autism
- ★ Behavioural difficulties
- ★ Developmental delay
- ★ Learning difficulties
- ★ Giftedness

**Contact STaR to discuss your situation and how we can best respond to assist you.
We can then quote on a package for your consideration.**