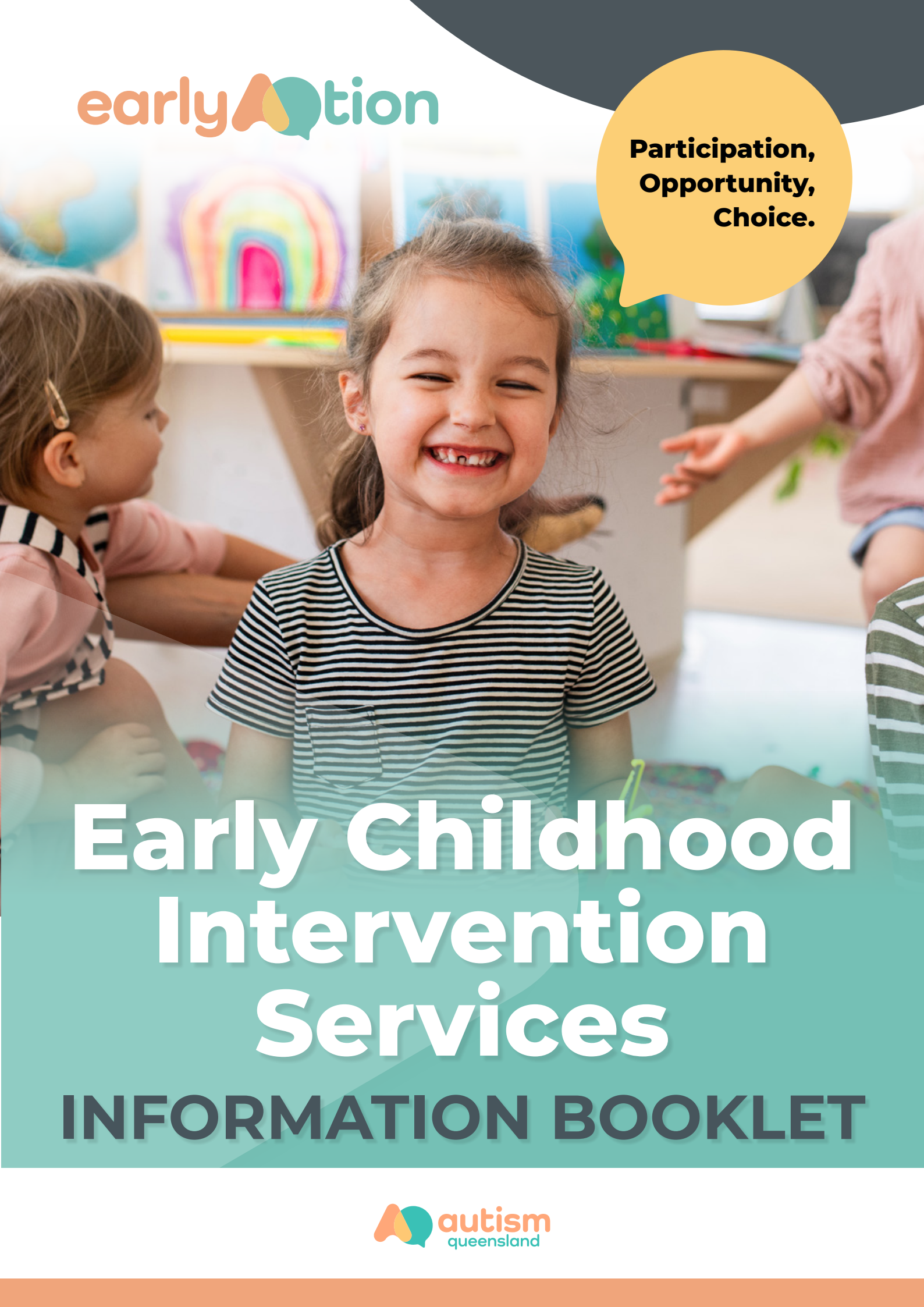


A yellow speech bubble containing the text 'Participation, Opportunity, Choice.'

Participation,
Opportunity,
Choice.

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a black and white striped t-shirt, is smiling broadly in a classroom setting. Other children and a teacher are partially visible in the background.

Early Childhood Intervention Services

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Acknowledgement of Country

Autism Queensland (AQ) acknowledges the **importance and value of the reconciliation journey** with Traditional Custodians and Owners of all the lands and waters on which we live and work.

We acknowledge the wisdom of Elders past and extend our respect for the valuable contributions of Elders present and those emerging leaders who willingly share cultural knowledge. Our teams recognise the significance of connections between country and culture for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we walk together toward participation, opportunity, and choice.



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Our Vision Our Mission

AQ has a **vision of a life of participation, opportunity, and choice** and partners with autistic individuals, their families, and communities to remove barriers and realise potential.

AQ's core values represent **who we are**. They embody what we do every day:

- **Integrity & Authenticity:** We are genuine, honest and accountable in all that we do.
- **Diversity & Inclusion:** We respect and celebrate all people and their right to participate and belong.
- **Strengths Focus:** We strive to support the development of every person's potential, recognising that a strengths focus enables growth and empowers decision-making and self-advocacy.
- **Safety & Wellbeing:** We provide and promote safe, respectful, caring and engaging people and environments that support positive development and relationships.
- **Evidence-Informed Practice:** We use professional reasoning to bring together current high quality research evidence and the values, strengths and preferences of individuals and families to optimise outcomes.



Contact Details

This booklet has been compiled by AQ to provide an overview of **EarlyAQtion Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services**.

It is a starting point for parents/carers, agencies, professionals and students seeking to learn more about AQ's supports and services for young children and their families.

If you have other questions or require more information after reading this booklet, please **contact our Client Services and Support team**. You will find all contact option below.

Contact us!

 **Email**
css@autismqld.com.au

 **Phone**
[\(07\) 3273 0000](tel:(07)32730000)

 **Postal**
[P.O. Box 354, Sunnybank QLD 4109](#)

 **Website**
autismqld.com.au



Find us!

Early Childhood Intervention

Introduction

As the State's peak autism body, AQ offers a range of services for children and their families including individual supports, therapy groups and parent/professional coaching.

EarlyAQtion ECI supports are individualised to each child and family, giving parents and carers **choice and flexibility** when considering what services and supports will best meet their child's and family's needs.

For more information on other early childhood services please visit our website: autismqld.com.au

“We have joy, we have confidence... it has helped us as parents to understand our child better, to know her better. We can now cater to our child's needs in a much better fashion and that helps the whole family.”



About our service...

The EarlyAQtion ECI team specialise in **supporting children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), or where autism is being investigated, up to the age of school entry.**

We target key areas required for successful participation in home and community life, including:

- Communication and social interaction
- Sensory experiences
- Cognitive development
- Accessible, inclusive environments
- Motor development and mobility
- Learning skills
- Family wellbeing and capacity
- Daily activities and participation, including self-care and self-management
- Social-emotional development and wellbeing
- Interpersonal interactions.

This **comprehensive and holistic service** recognises that parents, carers and other stakeholders are crucial members of the team around the autistic child. EarlyAQtion ECI services apply evidence-based practice and are delivered by staff with specialised knowledge and experience.

EarlyAQtion ECI is informed by and aligns with:

- ECIA National Guidelines: Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention (2016).
- National Guideline for supporting the learning, participation and wellbeing of autistic children and their families in Australia (Supporting Autistic Children Guideline – Autism Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), December 2022).

Essential elements of EarlyAQtion ECI:



- Supports **tailored to the child's and family's goals**, the child's and family's situation, the child's and family's needs and preferences, and the child's NDIS goals (where relevant).
- An **autism-specific framework** which recognises the specific needs of young autistic children.
- **Strengths-based** and **neurodiversity-affirming** supports.
- **Collaboration** with parents, staff at the child's community-based early childhood centre and with other therapists where relevant, to develop strategies specific to each child's skills and support needs.
- Connection with other supports within the child's community.
- Sharing of information and expertise.
- Opportunities for parents and carers to form supportive peer networks.
- A range of **targeted therapy groups**, allowing a focus on inclusion and generalisation of skills across settings, including home and other early years spaces.
- **Transition support** into the next stage of their journey.
- Acknowledging that parents are crucial members of the team who will help children to achieve success.
- A **positive approach to behaviour** support which focuses on understanding the reasons for behaviour.

What's included?

EarlyAQtion ECI services are **individualised** to each child and family. Components include:

- **Initial and ongoing assessments** to identify functional impacts and areas to target for the development of the child's skills along with environmental changes that will better support the child's learning profile.
- Activities taking place in the child's home, their mainstream early childhood setting and at AQ.
- Continuous information gathering and data collection to measure outcomes and direct future targets.
- Professional **support for parents** through provision of individual information and **coaching sessions**, observation opportunities in individual and group settings, and collaboration on outcome measurement.
- **Therapy group sessions** where children are supported in developing essential skills for mainstream early childhood settings and whole-of-life success, with small group sizes, high staff-to-child ratios, and specialist staff in a purpose-built setting.
- Professional **support for early childhood staff** through the provision of information, coaching and modelling to enable the successful implementation of strategies that can be development and practiced in individual and group therapy settings and the mainstream early childhood environment.
- A **positive behaviour support approach**, that focusses on identifying the reasons behind a child's behaviour. This allows us to better match our expectations, our behaviour and the environment to the child's skills, needs and preferences, as well as informing us on what new skills that would be beneficial for the child to learn.

ECI Therapy Groups

The following ECI therapy groups are available to provide targeted support across a range of areas:

Group Name	Group Overview
<p>EarlyAQtion ECI PLAY</p>	<p>Supporting children to develop key play skills, including functional play, imaginative play, and collaborative play. Development of these early skills assists with future success in social communication, literacy skills, and emotional regulation. Parents and carers are supported to increase their ability to support play skills at home and in the community.</p>
<p>EarlyAQtion ECI LEARN</p>	<p>Facilitating successful transitions to Prep, Early Childhood Educator and Care (ECEC), and other placements. Children will build capacity in their pre-academic skills, transition skills, and independent living skills. Parents and carers will learn a greater understanding of their child's needs and strengths, as well as strategies they can use to support their children to manage transitions.</p>
<p>EarlyAQtion ECI COMMUNICATE</p>	<p>Children will be supported to communicate their wants and needs through Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), speech, language, or other means. They, and their parents will develop the ability to communicate with others, as well as learn strategies to manage communication breakdowns.</p>
<p>EarlyAQtion ECI EXPLORATION</p>	<p>Children are facilitated to explore foundational gross motor and sensory play skills in a safe and supported environment. Each child's strengths and interests will be incorporated into activities which enhance sensory experiences, as well as food exploration. Parents and carers are supported to develop strategies and understand how to help their child generalise these skills in all environments.</p>
<p>EarlyAQtion ECI FRIENDS</p>	<p>Helping children build key social communication skills necessary for engaging in play, conversations, and group activities. Group facilitators provide opportunities for interactions between children in a supportive and structured environment. Parents and carers are provided with coaching and strategies to ensure generalisation of learned skills across all important contexts.</p>

Collaboration

Effective early childhood intervention depends on a **partnership between families and service providers**. Parents and carers, as the people who know most about their child, are the essential drivers of the planning and work required to secure these partnerships.

EarlyAQtion ECI services are delivered by a multidisciplinary team including:

- Occupational therapists, speech pathologists, early childhood educators, psychologists and/or EarlyAQtion therapy assistants.
- A key worker (a professional from the EarlyAQtion ECI team) is assigned to each child and is the family's main supportive point of contact.
- The team is supported by a therapy manager and senior professionals.

EarlyAQtion ECI services require parents/carers maintain active involvement by:

- **Engaging:** in goal setting and reviews.
- **Participating:** in observation and coaching activities in all relevant locations – home, community, mainstream early childhood settings.
- **Recognising:** our shared commitment to working together.
- **Goal Setting:** at home and other settings.
- **Sharing:** successes and barriers.
- **Communicating:** asking questions, sharing knowledge and having open communication.

“It’s given me the strength to feel like I can do this... and the skills as well.”



Cost

Children are welcome to enrol in a range of EarlyAQtion ECI supports, depending on their individual goals and family needs. **EarlyAQtion ECI supports allow for parent and community involvement alongside direct, targeted therapeutic intervention.**

Parents and families may choose for their child to attend **1, 2, or 3 groups per week** for **1-4 blocks per year**.

	1 x 12-week block	2 x 12-week blocks	3 x 12-week blocks	4 x 12-week blocks
1 group per week	from \$8,736.94	from \$17,029.32	from \$25,321.70	from \$34,778.01
2 groups per week	from \$14,361.95	from \$27,379.34	from \$40,396.73	from \$57,278.07
3 groups per week	from \$19,542.41	from \$39,529.38	from \$59,071.79	from \$79,778.13

Contact us to discuss your child's unique strengths, needs, and goal areas, and we will work together with you to tailor an individualised EarlyAQtion ECI support schedule that will work for your family.

For more information on other early childhood services please visit our website: autismqld.com.au



NDIS & AQ

Autism Queensland is a registered NDIS service provider.

We can assist you to communicate with your NDIS Planner in seeking reasonable and necessary supports for you and your child.

EarlyAQtion ECI services are priced according to *NDIS Pricing Arrangements*.

Our Policies

Further policies and procedures relevant to AQ services can be found on our website: autismqld.com.au/page/policies-procedures, or upon request.