

Family Centred Early Intervention from a Parents Perspective

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Typical Australian Family?

- Mum, Dad
- 4 children
- 3rd child, Olivia has an Autism Spectrum Disorder



Olivia

- Zoning Out
- Not toilet trained
- General Developmental Delay
- Refused to wear clothes



Olivia (continued)

- Sleeping difficulties
- Speech delay
- Severe separation anxiety
- Meltdowns and shutdowns



- Government funded in Early Intervention
- Someone to “fix” Olivia
- Offer of Family Centred Early Intervention

Early Intervention Services

- Key family worker
- Establishing a routine
- Referral to other agencies, eg The Wilbarger Protocol for Sensory Defensiveness
- Social stories



Early Intervention Services (cont)

- Selective mutism strategies
- Toileting assistance
- Creative ways to get Olivia to drink water
- Separation anxiety strategies



Early Intervention Services (cont)

- Assistance at pre-school
- Coping strategies as parents
- Increased understanding of autism
- Support and recognition as parents
- Confidence
- Transition to school

Benefits of Family Centred Early Intervention

- Far more capable family
- Confidence to handle Olivia
- More creative
- “Every day is therapy day”
- Enjoy being a family



Olivia Now

- Knows and understands that she has autism
- Attends a mainstream school
- Regularly exceeds our expectations of her
- Toileting issues still
- My beautiful daughter



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