

—MEDIA RELEASE—



## NSW Department of Education and SDN Children's Services Launch the Referrers Project to Support Families in Early Learning Enrolment

Sydney (26 March 2025) SDN Children's Services, is proud to announce the publication of the Referrers Project—an initiative designed to streamline the enrolment process for vulnerable families seeking early learning and preschool services in New South Wales.

Funded by a grant from the NSW Department of Education, the purpose of the tools is to build a bridge between referrers, centre staff and families, ensuring they are all on the same page about the steps a family needs to take when enrolling their child in early learning.

“The Referrers Project provides a structured, step-by-step roadmap to help families make informed decisions about their child’s early education,” said Fernanda Brarda, SDN Customer Experience & Data Insights Specialist.

“With an easy-to-follow checklist and practical guidance, this initiative simplifies what can sometimes be an overwhelming process.”

## Simplified enrolment support

The Referrers Project is built around an enrolment checklist that guides families through five essential phases:

- **Prepare** – Gather necessary documents and determine eligibility for government funding.
- **Find** – Research early childhood education centres and schedule visits.
- **Visit** – Learn key questions to ask and understand the waiting list process.
- **Enrol** – Complete formal enrolment and apply for financial assistance.
- **Settle** – Support a smooth transition, including orientation sessions and early adjustment strategies.

## Additional resources for families

To further assist families, the Referrers Project also includes:

- A short informational video explaining the enrolment steps. [Watch it here](#)
- A downloadable checklist for easy reference.
- Key links to critical services, including CRN registration, Child Care Subsidy (CCS) applications, and language support for non-English speakers.
- A printed version of the checklist featuring a QR code that directs families to SDN's online resources for up-to-date information.

## Accessible and widely available

Families and caseworkers can also visit SDN's dedicated web page to download and print their own copies. For more information about the Referrers Project and to access its resources, please visit [please visit SDN webpage here.](#)

## About SDN

SDN Children's Services (SDN) is a not-for-profit organisation that has been delivering quality services to children and their families since 1905. With more than 740 staff across 33 sites in Sydney, regional NSW and the ACT, we are one of Australia's most respected children's services organisations.

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