

FAQs – Development Support and Learning Support

1. What is Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS)?

Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS) is an early intervention programme for existing preschool children with mild developmental needs. DS and LS provide targeted short-term interventions within the child's preschool itself and is run by trained Learning Support Educators (LSEds), clinical professionals and therapists. Depending on the assessed needs of the child, he/she would be offered either a DS or LS package. A DS package lasts 10 or 15 weeks, and an LS package lasts 6 or 10 weeks.

2. Who is eligible for Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS)?

Please refer to the Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS) page, under the "Who is Eligible" portion.

3. How do I apply for Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS) for my child?

Preschool teachers will flag children with mild developmental needs and refer them to the Learning Support Educators (LSEds). The LSEds will then assess your child through a screening process to determine if they need to be enrolled in the DS or LS. If your child requires DS, he/ she will also be seen by a doctor at KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH) or National University Hospital (NUH).

4. How do I know if my child's preschool is participating in the Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS) programme?

The DS and LS programmes are currently offered at about 550 preschools that are run by NTUC First Campus, PAP Community Foundation, Skool4Kidz, E-Bridge, Presbyterian Community Services, Perdaus and TOUCH Community Services.

5. What are the fees for the programme?

Fees are charged according to the type of DS and LS package that is offered to the child. • Learning Support: \$5-\$130* • Development Support: \$5-\$290* *After deduction of government subsidies for Singaporeans; excludes GST. Please enquire with your child's preschool directly for the exact fees.

6. Are there any government subsidies that I can tap on?

Yes, government subsidies are available for Singaporean and Permanent Resident (PR) children. Higher subsidies will be given to financially needy families through means-testing.

7. What do the Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS) packages consist of?

Please refer to the Development Support (DS) & Learning Support (LS) page, under the “Overview of Programme” portion.

8. Will my child have to go to another location for intervention?

No, all intervention programmes will take place at your child’s preschool.

9. My child’s preschool does not deem my child to be suitable for the Development Support (DS) or Learning Support (LS) but I suspect that he/she might be having developmental issues or special needs. What should I do?

You are advised to consult a doctor at a polyclinic or a paediatrician from the Department of Child Development at KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital (KKH DCD) or Child Development Unit at National University Hospital (NUH CDU). The doctor will assess your child and advise you on any follow-up actions if necessary.

10. My child seems to have developmental needs, but is not enrolled in a preschool. Can I still apply for the Development Support (DS) or Learning Support (LS)?

DS & LS are catered to existing preschool children who have been flagged by teachers and Learning Support Educators (LSEds) as having mild developmental needs. If your child is not enrolled in a preschool, and you suspect your child of having developmental or special needs, you are advised to consult a doctor at a polyclinic or a paediatrician from the Department of Child Development at KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital (KKH DCD) or Child Development Unit at National University Hospital (NUH CDU). The doctor will assess your child and advise you on any follow-up actions if necessary.

11. My child is currently on the Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) waitlist. Can I take my child out of the waitlist and enrol in Development Support (DS) or Learning Support (LS)?

EIPIC, DS and LS address different needs. As your child has been assessed by the paediatrician to be suitable for EIPIC, you are strongly advised to follow through with the recommendation to maximise your child’s developmental potential. If you feel that your child is more suited for DS or LS, please consult the same paediatrician to assess your child’s suitability.

12. My child is currently enrolled in an Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) centre. Can I discharge my child from the centre and enrol him in the Development Support (DS) or Learning Support (LS)?

EIPIC, DS and LS address different needs. As your child has been assessed by the paediatrician to be suitable for EIPIC, you are strongly advised to continue with the intervention to maximise

your child's developmental potential. If you feel that your child is more suited for DS or LS, please consult the same paediatrician to assess your child's suitability.

13. What is the difference between the Learning Support (LS), Development Support (DS) and DS-Plus programmes, given that they are all conducted within preschools?

The key differences between LS, DS and the DS-Plus programme are in the target group of children that each programme caters to, the intensity of the interventions, and the professionals providing the interventions.

	Learning Support	Development Support	Development Support – Plus
Target group	Children with learning needs	Children with mild developmental needs	Children with mild-moderate developmental needs
Focus of intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language development and literacy skills • Handwriting skills • Social-communication skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational skills • Speech and language skills • Learning support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech and language skills, • Social-communication skills • Fine and gross motor skills, Language development and literacy skills, • Self-help skills
Weekly hours of intervention	1 – 2 hours, over a period of 3 – 4 months		2 – 4 hours, over a period of 3-6 months.
Professionals involved	Learning Support Educators	Learning Support Educators, Therapists	EI teachers or Learning Support Educators, Therapists