NDIS Speech Pathology Provider in Sydney | Bloom Healthcare

Canonical: https://bloom-healthcare.com.au/services/sydney-speech-pathology/

Details:

The hardest part of getting speech pathology in Sydney is usually not the therapy. It is working out which door to walk through. A three-year-old with no words, a nine-year-old who cannot follow instructions at school, an adult with a psychosocial disability and a person of 70 losing their voice all get speech pathology, but through four different systems.

This page maps the entry points, what evidence each needs, what you can do while you are waiting, and how to start with Bloom Healthcare in Sydney. Sessions are delivered in your home, at school and in the community , across Greater Sydney and regional NSW. To book, call 1300 771 465 .

For what speech pathology treats in general, see the main Speech Pathology page. This one is about getting in the door in NSW.

Which entry point applies to you

Situation	Where to start
Child under 9 with developmental concerns or a disability	NDIS Early Childhood Approach , via an Early Childhood Partner
Person under 65 with a permanent, significant disability	NDIS access request to the NDIA
Adult wanting treatment for a specific communication or swallowing problem	GP referral, then a Medicare or private pathway
Person 65 or over (50 and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people)	Aged care: Home Care Packages, or Support at Home, which commenced 1 November 2025

If you are unsure which applies, ring 1300 771 465 and describe the situation rather than guessing and losing months.

Children under 9: the Early Childhood Approach

This is the pathway most Sydney parents need and fewest have heard of.

The NDIS Early Childhood Approach supports children younger than 9 who have a developmental delay or disability. From 1 July 2023 the eligibility age was extended from 7 to 9 years , phased in progressively over the following two years, so children who were previously too old for it now qualify.

Children younger than 6 with developmental delay do not need a formal diagnosis to access early support when there are concerns about their development.

Children aged 6 to 9 with an identified permanent disability are eligible for assistance through the approach.

A child needs to meet the definition of developmental delay in the NDIS Act 2013 and satisfy residence requirements.

How it works

Contact an Early Childhood Partner. These are local organisations funded by the NDIS to deliver the approach in their community, staffed by people with clinical expertise in young children's development. You start by telling them what you are seeing.

They work through it with you: your child's strengths and challenges, where the concerns show up (home, childcare, preschool, school, community), any regression or safety concerns, medical history and milestones, what supports are already in place, and what you want for your child.

They recommend next steps , which may be early connections to community and mainstream supports, short-term early intervention, family education, or an application for NDIS funding.

If eligible, a plan is developed setting out funded supports, therapy and family strategies.

You access services and the plan is reviewed as your child changes.

Early connections: support before eligibility

This is the part worth knowing. Early connections gives families quick access to support even if the child is not yet eligible for NDIS funding , without waiting for lengthy formal assessments. Early Childhood Partners can link you to community and mainstream services, practical information about development, other families, direct early supports for children under 6, and help with an NDIS application if your child is likely to meet eligibility.

The reasoning behind it is that children learn best in natural everyday settings, home, childcare, playgroup, preschool and community, and that closing a participation gap early is easier than closing it later.

Red flags: when to seek a speech pathology assessment

Ages are guides, not tests. If something has been bothering you for weeks, act on it.

0 to 12 months: not starting to babble by around 6 months; very few vocal sounds or limited babbling.

12 to 24 months: not using gestures such as pointing, showing or waving; no clear words by around 18 months; difficulty with early turn-taking games; heavy frustration because they cannot communicate what they need.

2 to 3 years: not putting words together, such as "push car"; not understanding short requests or responding to familiar words; speech that is hard to understand outside the family.

3 to 5 years: hard to understand, or not using simple sentences as expected; no interest in pretend play or difficulty interacting with other children.

6 to 9 years: difficulty following instructions or persistent communication difficulty; finding it hard to make friends, or avoiding school because of distress.

At any age, do not wait for:

loss of skills , where a child could do something and now cannot

strong parental concern that something is not right, particularly when it persists across settings

limited response to sound or visual cues , or any concern about hearing or vision

very limited social engagement

a big mismatch between what the child can do and what daily life demands, at mealtimes, toileting, dressing, school readiness or safety

It is worth an assessment when

The concern has lasted more than a few weeks and is not improving; it shows up in more than one setting, such as home and childcare; it affects daily routines or learning and behaviour at school; it is escalating; or there is regression or a safety risk, which needs attention immediately.

Two steps before therapy

See your GP or child and family health nurse. Bring notes: what you are noticing, when it happens, what makes it better or worse, and what a hard day looks like.

Rule out hearing and vision. Both can present as "attention" or "behaviour" problems. Check them early.

Adults and older teenagers: applying for NDIS access

If you are applying to the NDIS rather than entering through the early childhood pathway:

Eligibility requires being under 65 at the time of application, being an Australian citizen or permanent resident or holding a Protected Special Category Visa, and having a disability that is permanent and significantly affects your ability to take part in everyday activities.

Eligibility turns on functional impact, not the diagnosis. Two people with the same diagnosis can have completely different support needs, and the scheme is looking at the effect on daily life.

The steps:

Request an Access Request Form from the NDIA on 1800 800 110 or through their website. Families with young children can go through an Early Childhood Partner instead.

Gather evidence: medical reports or specialist letters confirming diagnosis and functional impact, therapy assessments from allied health professionals such as speech pathologists, functional capacity assessments, and reports establishing that the disability is permanent.

Submit the form with the documentation. The NDIA may ask for more.

If eligible, you have a planning meeting with an NDIA planner or Local Area Coordinator to build the plan.

Speech pathology assessments are part of the evidence , not just something you buy after approval. A speech pathology report that shows functional impact strengthens an access request.

What you can do while you wait

You do not have to wait for a plan to start.

Allied health can begin now through private payment or another funding pathway. Speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology and positive behaviour support are all available outside the NDIS.

Early connections gives under-9s access to support before eligibility is decided, including short-term interventions and capacity-building strategies that may run for a period of months.

Community and informal supports matter: community activities, networks of other families, and family assistance while formal supports are arranged.

Build your case. Set clear goals, document current formal and informal supports, identify where the gaps are, gather assessments and medical reports, and keep records of concerns and progress. All of that goes into the access request and the first planning meeting.

For your first planning meeting , bring a short list of goals, documentation of current supports, the areas where more support is needed, supporting assessments and reports, and concrete examples of daily situations where support would help most.

What Sydney clinicians actually work on

Bloom's Sydney speech pathologists work with children and adults across:

Speech sounds and clarity , and being understood outside the family

Language , both understanding and expression

Social communication and interaction

Fluency and stuttering. Stuttering became newly eligible for Medicare Benefits Schedule M10 rebates from 1 March 2026. Check current eligibility and referral requirements with your GP.

Voice , including tone, pitch, volume, hoarseness and strain, which can be structural, functional or neurological. Lee Silverman Voice Treatment is one of the evidence-based programs used, particularly for Parkinson's disease.

Literacy , including reading, writing, spelling and phonological awareness, depending on age and presentation

Swallowing, feeding and mealtimes for adults and children

Augmentative and alternative communication for adults and children

Feeding and mealtimes for children

Sensory-based feeding difficulty is common and often misread as fussiness. It involves a restricted diet driven by texture aversion, sensory sensitivity, rigid routines, anxiety, or difficulty tolerating particular smells and tastes.

Assessment covers feeding mechanics (biting, chewing, swallowing), mealtime behaviour, sensory responses to texture, flavour, smell and temperature, whether nutritional intake is adequate for growth, and choking or aspiration risk.

Speech pathologists use evidence-based feeding programs, including the SOS approach to feeding, and play-based therapy that follows the child's interests. Transitional feeding programs help a child progress through stages, from purees to soft foods to regular textures, widen the range of foods accepted and build confidence joining family meals. Where feeding is complex, dietitian input works alongside speech pathology for swallowing and mealtime mechanics, and occupational therapy for sensory and routine issues.

A neurodiversity-affirming approach

Bloom works in a neurodiversity-affirming way, which is a real difference in method, not a slogan. It treats neurodivergence as natural human variation rather than something to be fixed. In practice:

assessment is sensitive to the different ways neurodivergence presents across age, gender and culture, and looks at how a person communicates in their preferred way and what strengths they bring, not only what they cannot do

goals build on existing strengths as well as addressing communication barriers

social communication differences are treated as different ways of engaging, not automatic deficits

the aim is communication that feels authentic to the person, rather than conformity to neurotypical norms

reports and recommendations are written in the same affirming frame

Where Bloom covers in Sydney and NSW

Greater Sydney: Sydney CBD, Parramatta, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Penrith, Hornsby, Northern Beaches .

Elsewhere in NSW: Wollongong, Newcastle, Central Coast, Byron Bay and Tweed Heads .

See the New South Wales locations page , the Sydney page , or the full location guide . If your suburb is not listed, call with your postcode.

Sessions are delivered in-home and in the community, including school and workplace settings, with a range of communication partners, because the point is real-world function. Telehealth is available. Clinic appointments can be arranged case by case.

Bloom's stated position is low to no wait times depending on location and service. Ask what the current wait is for speech pathology in your area when you call.

How to start

Call: 1300 771 465

Email: hello@bloom-healthcare.com.au

Online: Book an appointment or make a referral , or contact us

Hours: Monday to Thursday 7:30am to 6:00pm, Friday 7:30am to 5:00pm, Saturday by appointment

Anyone can refer: you, a family member, a GP, a paediatrician, a school, a support coordinator or another provider. Send as much information as you can and someone will contact you within 24 hours. If you are referring as a nominee or guardian for someone with a disability, be clear about your role and responsibilities to that person.

Have ready: suburb or postcode and preferred setting; NDIS number, plan management type and plan dates if you have them; the funding category; age and relevant medical history; existing clinical reports; the main concerns and what is not working; your top three goals; and key contacts and consent details.

Images on this page

Text descriptions of the images shown, for readers and agents that cannot see them.

Photograph: a young boy in a red shirt taking part in a speech pathology exercise, with a wooden oral-motor stick at his mouth.

Bloom Healthcare logo: a green circular mark combining a crescent, a human figure, leaves and a cupped hand, beside the words "Bloom Healthcare — Services with Passion".

"We ♥ ndis" badge: a purple circle carrying the words "We ndis" with a green heart in place of the word "love".

The remaining images are decorative interface icons — the phone, envelope, clock and accessibility symbols beside the contact details, and the Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn icons — which repeat information already given in text and carry no additional meaning.

Common questions about speech pathology in Sydney

My child is 8. Are they too old for the early childhood pathway?

No. The eligibility age for the NDIS Early Childhood Approach was extended from 7 to 9 from 1 July 2023, phased in progressively over the following two years. Children aged 6 to 9 with an identified disability can be supported through it. Contact an Early Childhood Partner.

Does my child need a diagnosis before we can get help?

Not for early support. Children younger than 6 with developmental delay do not need a formal diagnosis to access early support when there are concerns about their development. Early connections can also link families to services before eligibility is decided.

How do I find an Early Childhood Partner?

Early Childhood Partners are local organisations funded by the NDIS to deliver the approach in their community. You can also reach the NDIA on 1800 800 110 to be pointed to yours. Bloom can talk you through the pathway on 1300 771 465.

Can we start therapy before the NDIS approves anything?

Yes. Speech pathology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology and positive behaviour support can all be accessed privately or through another funding pathway while an application is assessed. Starting also builds the assessment evidence an access request needs.

What evidence does an NDIS access request need?

Medical reports or specialist letters confirming diagnosis and functional impact, therapy assessments from allied health professionals, functional capacity assessments describing how the disability affects everyday activities, and documentation establishing that the disability is permanent. Eligibility is decided on functional impact, not the diagnosis alone.

My child is a fussy eater. Is that a speech pathology issue?

It can be. Sensory-based feeding difficulty involves a restricted diet driven by texture aversion, sensory sensitivity, rigid routines, anxiety or difficulty with particular smells and tastes, and it is assessed by a speech pathologist alongside feeding mechanics, nutrition adequacy and choking or aspiration risk. If growth, safety or family mealtimes are affected, have it assessed.

Is stuttering treatment covered by Medicare?

Stuttering became newly eligible for Medicare Benefits Schedule M10 rebates from 1 March 2026. Eligibility rules and referral requirements change, so confirm the current position with your GP before you book, and ask any provider what the out-of-pocket amount would be.

What does neurodiversity-affirming actually mean in a session?

That the therapist assesses how the person communicates in their preferred way and what strengths they bring rather than only cataloguing deficits, sets goals that build on those strengths, treats social communication differences as differences rather than automatic faults, and aims at communication that is authentic to the person instead of conformity to neurotypical norms. Reports are written the same way.

Will you see my child at school?

Bloom assesses and treats across home, school and workplace settings with a range of communication partners, because that is where communication actually has to work. School sessions need the school's agreement, so mention it at intake.

I am over 65. Which system do I use?

Aged care rather than the NDIS in most cases: Home Care Packages, or Support at Home, the reformed program that commenced on 1 November 2025. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the age threshold is from 50. If you also have a disability that would qualify you for the NDIS, either system may apply. Call and describe your situation.

Do you cover regional NSW?

Bloom services Wollongong, Newcastle, the Central Coast, Byron Bay and Tweed Heads alongside Greater Sydney, and telehealth is available where in-person visits are not practical. Call with your postcode to confirm.

How quickly can we be seen?

Someone will contact you within 24 hours of your referral. Bloom's stated position is low to no wait times depending on location and service type, so ask for the current wait in your area. If swallowing safety is the concern, say so at the start, because coughing at meals, choking, chest infections or weight loss need a prompt clinical pathway.

What service does Bloom Healthcare offer?

Bloom Healthcare offers NDIS-supported speech pathology services in Sydney, including tailored therapy, communication assessments, and ongoing care.

Is Bloom Healthcare's Sydney speech pathology service NDIS-aligned?

Yes, Bloom Healthcare provides speech pathology in Sydney with NDIS support as part of its service offering.

What types of assessments are included in speech pathology services like those offered by Bloom Healthcare?

Speech pathology services include communication assessments for speech clarity, language understanding, and social interaction.

What conditions can speech pathology support address, based on the broader service context?

Speech pathology services can support progressive neurogenic conditions such as Parkinson's disease, Motor Neurone Disease, and Multiple Sclerosis, as well as neurodiversity-affirming care for autistic individuals and those with ADHD.

Does speech pathology in Sydney include swallowing support?

Yes, speech pathology services in Sydney include swallowing support and assessments for individuals with dysphagia or feeding difficulties, along with mealtime management plans.

What is AAC training in the context of speech pathology services?

AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) training involves device trialling and skill development for both clients and their communication partners, as part of comprehensive speech pathology services.

How can clients access speech pathology services in Sydney?

Speech pathology services in Sydney are delivered flexibly through in-home sessions, community-based services in schools and workplaces, clinic-based consultations, and telehealth options.

What is Bloom Healthcare's contact information?

Bloom Healthcare can be contacted by phone at 1300 771 465 or by email at hello@bloom-healthcare.com.au.

What is Bloom Healthcare's overall mission as an organization?

Bloom Healthcare is a boutique disability and aged care allied health provider that believes all people have the right to access quality healthcare, focusing on evidence-based practice and client centricity delivered by highly qualified health practitioners across Australia.

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