The Mission of BEI is to:

- Provide an educational service to maximise the development and learning of each child;
- Support and empower families in accessing appropriate support and specialist services;
- Provide family friendly experiences and opportunities to support the child’s everyday learning environments; and
- Strengthen the capacity of other early childhood services in Ballina Shire to meet the needs of children through inclusive programs.

Ballina Early Intervention is a service of the Rainbow Children’s Centre Inc. which is a community managed body. The Committee of parents is responsible for the management of this service.

We are funded by the Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) and the NSW Department of Education and Communities (DECS) as well as other specific purpose grants.

In accordance with our funding agreement families are required to pay a nominal fee of $120 per year for the service (2014).

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**How to seek assistance**

You may be referred by another organisation or medical practitioner. You can also contact BEI directly to discuss your concerns about your child.

Staff work part time and if the office is unattended, leave a message and one of the staff will return your call.

**Phone:** 6686 6889  
**Fax:** 6686 6267

**Email:** bei@rainbowchildrenscentre.com.au


**Location:**

4 John Sharpe Street,  
EAST BALLINA NSW 2478

(Adjacent to the Rainbow Children’s Centre)
Early Intervention provides an educational service which maximises the learning and development of each child.

Ballina Early Intervention (BEI) is a community based organisation that provides a service for children from birth to school entry age, with some scope to support children until 8 years of age, who have or are at risk of developing a condition or other disability that might impact on their development and learning. These services can provide programs to enhance a child’s development, provide support and assistance to the family, assist families to help their child grow and learn, and maximise opportunities for the child and family to access other support services.

An early intervention program may provide educational and therapy services from staff with specialist skills, as well as coordinate programs for the child, including support for early childhood settings and other services involved with the child.

BEI employs specialist early childhood intervention teachers to develop and implement programs to support you and your child.

We work closely with a range of agencies including paediatricians and therapists from Community Health, Ageing, Disability & Home Care (ADHC), Ballina Community Health, the Cerebral Palsy Alliance, ASPECT Far North Coast as well as those in private practices.

Early Intervention also works closely with the families of the children and supports them in accessing appropriate support and specialist services.

What is Early Intervention?

What will happen when I access BEI services?

Firstly, we will meet with your family, including your child, to explore the services that best meet your needs. Then, your child’s developmental and learning strengths and needs will be assessed by an Early Intervention teacher possibly in conjunction with other health and educational professionals as well as the family. An individualised plan will then be developed with your family which identifies goals which will support the strengths and needs of both you and your child.

Meeting these goals may involve:

- Small group sessions at BEI
- MyTime Play sessions
- Home visits by early childhood intervention teachers to assist you and your child as appropriate
- Visits by our Early Intervention teachers and consultants to your child’s early childhood setting
- Educational or behavioural assessments by our specialist early intervention teachers
- Referral to other agencies for specialist services and assessments eg Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Psychologist etc as appropriate
- Resource development such as social stories and visual resources for families/Early Childhood Settings
- Assistance to access grants and other support programs for your child and your family
- Family support meetings, social functions and information workshops or
- Other strategies as discussed with each individual family.

Groups at BEI

One of the services offered to families are BEI centre based groups. BEI organise group sessions for some children where appropriate to focus on similar aspects of development and learning or particular needs. The groups are led by an early intervention teacher and support worker.

Some groups may involve other specialists such as a therapist. Most groups last approximately 2 hours.

Parents/carers attend with their child and have an opportunity to interact with other families. Guest speakers are often organised and information is shared relevant to the interests of the group. Parents/carers have the opportunity of gaining an understanding of new strategies which they can then implement with their children at home.