

## **FAQs – Development Support and Learning Support (DS-LS) Programme**

### **1. What is DS-LS Programme?**

DS-LS programme is a short-term, government funded early intervention (EI) programme targeted at children requiring low level of EI support and are enrolled in preschools. The programme is supported by Learning Support Educators (LSEds), therapists and other EI professionals.

Depending on the assessed needs of the child, they would be offered either a DS or LS package which consists of 8 to 15 sessions.

### **2. Who is eligible for DS-LS Programme?**

Please refer to the DS-LS Programme webpage under the "Who is Eligible" section for more information.

### **3. How do I apply for DS-LS Programme for my child?**

Preschool teachers will flag children who may require additional support and refer them to the LSEds. The LSEds will then assess your child through a screening process to determine if they need to be enrolled in the DS-LS Programme.

If your child requires a DS package<sup>1</sup>, they may need to be seen by a Paediatrician at KK Women's and Children's Hospital – Department of Child Development (KKH-DCD) or National University Hospital – Child Development Unit (NUH-CDU).

### **4. How do I know if my child's preschool is participating in the DS-LS programme?**

If your child is enrolled in any of the preschool operators under the Anchor Operators (AOP) Scheme below, you may approach your child's preschool directly for more information:

- a) PCF Sparkletots Preschool
- b) My First Skool
- c) MY World Preschool
- d) Skool4Kidz
- e) E-Bridge Preschool

If your child is not enrolled in any of the AOP preschools, you may check with your child's preschool directly.

If your child's preschool currently does not offer DS-LS programme, you may ask them to contact the Therapy Teams. The list of Therapy Teams is available under "How to Apply?" section of the webpage.

### **5. Will my child have to go to another location for the programme?**

All sessions will take place at your child's preschool. However, if your child requires a DS package<sup>2</sup>, they may need to be seen by a Paediatrician at KK Women's and Children's

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<sup>1</sup> Some DS packages does not require to be seen at KKH-DCD or NUH-CDU. The social worker or case manager will advise you accordingly when recommending the package.

<sup>2</sup> Some DS packages does not require to be seen at KKH-DCD or NUH-CDU. The social worker or case manager will advise you accordingly when recommending the package.

Hospital – Department of Child Development (KKH-DCD) or National University Hospital – Child Development Unit (NUH-CDU).

## **6. What is the purpose of seeing a Paediatrician at KKH-DCD and NUH-CDU?**

While the screening by the LSEd will help surface some areas of difficulties that your child may have, the Paediatrician will further examine your child to ensure that there are no underlying medical conditions affecting their development. Thereafter, a confirmation of the recommended DS package will be shared with the DS-LS operator.

## **7. How much does Paediatrician consultation cost?**

Effective from 1 Jan 2023, Paediatrician's consultation fees for Singapore Citizens will be means-tested. The social worker or case manager will share the fee range and the exact amount will be computed and reflected in the final bill after the consultation.

If you require financial assistance for hospital expenses, you may request for an appointment with the medical social worker at the clinic to assess assistance eligibility.

## **8. What are the fees for the programme?**

DS-LS programme is charged according to the type of package offered.

Government subsidies are available for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents children. Higher subsidies are given to financially needy families through means-testing.

The fee range per month<sup>3</sup> for Singapore Citizens<sup>4</sup> is as follows:

- Learning Support Package: \$5 to \$130
- Development Support Package: \$5 to \$290

The fee range per month<sup>2</sup> for Permanent Residents<sup>3</sup> is as follows:

- Learning Support Package: \$5 to \$500
- Development Support Package: \$5 to \$1,500

For more information, please enquire with your child's preschool or the DS-LS operator directly.

## **9. My child's preschool does not deem my child to be suitable for DS-LS programme but I suspect that they might be having developmental issues. What should I do?**

You are advised to consult a Doctor at a polyclinic or a Paediatrician from the KK Women's and Children's Hospital – Department of Child Development (KKH-DCD) or National University Hospital – Child Development Unit (NUH-CDU). The Doctor or Paediatrician 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 DS-LS programme?**

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<sup>3</sup> Based on 1 session per week (including pre- and post- assessment) for a duration of up to 3 months for LS packages and 4 months for DS packages.

<sup>4</sup> After deduction of government subsidies and excludes GST.

The DS-LS programme is catered to existing preschool children who have been flagged by teachers and LSEs as requiring low level of EI support. If your child is not enrolled in a preschool, and you suspect your child of having developmental needs, you are advised to consult a Doctor at a polyclinic or a Paediatrician from the KK Women's and Children's Hospital – Department of Child Development (KKH-DCD) or National University Hospital – Child Development Unit (NUH-CDU). The Doctor or Paediatrician 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 the DS-LS programme?**

EIPIC and DS-LS programme address different needs. If your child has been assessed by the Paediatrician to be suitable for EIPIC, you should follow through with the recommendation to maximise your child's developmental potential.

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

**12. My child is currently enrolled in an EIPIC centre. Can I discharge my child from the centre and enrol them in the DS-LS programme?**

EIPIC and DS-LS programme addresses different needs. If 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.

**13. What is the difference between the DS-LS programme and DS-Plus programme, given that they are all conducted within preschools?**

The key differences between DS-LS programme and 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.

	DS-LS Programme		DS-Plus Programme
	Learning Support Package	Development Support Package	
<b>Target group</b>	Children with learning needs	Children with mild developmental needs	Children with mild-moderate developmental needs
<b>Focus of intervention/ Areas of support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literacy skills</li> <li>• Language skills</li> <li>• Fine Motor skills</li> <li>• Social skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occupational Therapy</li> <li>• Speech and language Therapy</li> <li>• Educational Support</li> <li>• Psychology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech and language skills,</li> <li>• Social-communication skills</li> <li>• Fine and gross motor skills, Language development and literacy skills,</li> <li>• Self-help skills</li> </ul>

<b>Weekly hours of intervention</b>	Session duration: 1 hour Package duration: 8 to 14 sessions  Frequency may be adjusted according to your child's progress and needs.		2 to 4 hours over a period of minimally 6 months
<b>Professionals involved</b>	LSEds	LSEds, Therapists and other EI professionals	EI Educators, Therapists and other EI professionals