



Yvonne Carbone, with Ruby and Elaya.

Picture: STEVE TANNER. N08FP705

Yooralla help timely

THE Carbone family of Sas-safras was sent into a spin when their second daughter Ruby was born with Down syndrome 18 months ago.

Despite being a nurse, mother Yvonne said it was hard getting used to the reality of having to raise a disabled child with extra needs.

"We knew how to love and look after our baby girl, but we didn't know what, how and where to go to get information concerning her additional needs," Mrs Carbone said.

Thanks to Yooralla's The Patch Early Childhood Intervention centre the family has all the information and support it needs.

Before starting at the centre Ruby was on several waiting lists for different treatment and support, but now she has everything under the one roof.

Mrs Carbone said her husband Allister's first concern was that the family would have to leave the Hills to find the support they needed.

"We didn't even know these services existed, but the more we become involved the more we see that there is so much support in the Hills," Mrs Carbone said. "We are certainly not isolated at home. We get to go to the centre and meet with other families in the same situation. I get to meet other people who have been

through what I am going through now, and I don't feel I am going through this alone."

Mrs Carbone said that with her first daughter Elaya, now four, she took a lot of achievements for granted.

"Sometimes with little ones you just bypass things such as their first step, or first time they feed themselves," she said.

Last week Yooralla celebrated Early Childhood Intervention Week by trying to raise awareness of services available to children with developmental delays and disabilities. For more information about services in the hills, phone 9650 4077 or visit www.yooralla.com.au.