

# Early Childhood Early Intervention – How the NDIS can help your child

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# How the NDIS can help your child

**If your child is aged 0-6 years and has a disability, or if there are concerns with their development, they may be eligible to receive support from the NDIS.**

Your child's early years are very important as they set up how they'll learn and develop later in life. Support provided early will give your child the best chance of achieving their potential. Through participating in everyday situations, your child will be provided with opportunities to grow and learn.

## What is early childhood early intervention?

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has worked with a range of leading Australian early childhood intervention practitioners and researchers to design an early childhood early intervention (ECEI) approach.

This approach has been designed to identify the type and level of early intervention support your child needs to achieve their best outcome. A family-centred approach that supports greater inclusion in mainstream settings and builds the capacity of your child and family is proven to have positive effects in early childhood intervention. The NDIA has designed the ECEI approach using this strong research and evidence base.

The NDIA will team up with a partner in your local community who will help provide the support your child needs quicker and easier. These partners are referred to as early childhood partners. Your early childhood partner is experienced in early childhood intervention and will provide assistance, advice and access to early intervention and support for your child.

Early intervention for a child with a developmental delay or disability in their early years is critical to achieving the best outcomes.

## How ECEI works

### What to expect

Your family will meet with an early childhood partner experienced in early childhood intervention. The early childhood partner will:

- Work with you to determine the best supports for your child and family
- Identify information, community-based and mainstream supports that can be used to support your child
- If required, help you request NDIS access and once confirmed, work with your family to develop a plan. Once your child's plan is approved you can choose the providers you wish to work with and the support begins.

### Accessing ECEI

If your child is already an NDIS participant, their current arrangements will continue. We will talk to you about the different ECEI options for your child at their next scheduled plan review.

If your child is not currently supported by the NDIS, but they are receiving government funded supports, they will continue to receive these supports until the NDIS becomes available in your area. We will contact you when the NDIS is available where you live.

If your child is not currently receiving any support and you have concerns about their development, please visit [ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au) to see when the NDIS will be available in your area.

Details of your early childhood partner or interim arrangements will be available on the NDIS website when the NDIS is available in your area.

Providing quality intervention early in your child's life reduces the possible need for longer term intervention and will support them over time to lead an ordinary life.

# The ECEI journey

## 1. Connect with an ECEI partner

You will be connected with an early childhood partner to discuss your child's disability or concerns you have about their development.

## 2. Get some helpful information

Your early childhood partner will provide you with guidance and information that will help you make decisions.

## 3. Work out support needs

Your early childhood partner will help you understand what supports and services in your community can help your child achieve their goals.

- Information & linkages
- Short-term intervention supports
- NDIS access

## 4. Referral services and supports

- Information & linkages
- Short-term intervention supports

## 5. NDIS access

## 6. Monitor progress

Your child's progress will be monitored against the goals you set.

# Explaining the ECEI journey

All children will go through steps 1 and 2, but because every child's needs and circumstances are unique, everyone's journey from there will be slightly different.

## 1. Connect with an early childhood partner

If your child has a disability or you have concerns about their development – how they play, how they socialise with other children or how they communicate their needs and wants – you will be connected with an early childhood partner to discuss your concerns.

## 2. Get some helpful information

Your early childhood partner will help you understand your child's support needs and provide you with guidance and information that will help you make decisions about the right supports and services for your child.

## 3. Work out your family's support needs

Your early childhood partner will work with you to set some goals for your child. They will also help you understand what type of supports and services can help your child achieve their goals. The supports and services will be different for each child depending on their circumstances. These supports and services will be most effective when they are delivered in your child's everyday environment, so they develop the skills they need to participate in their community.

## 4. Referral services and supports

Your early childhood partner will provide information and linkages to supports and services available in your local community. Your early childhood partner may also provide initial early childhood intervention supports if your child needs them.

## 5. Accessing the NDIS

If your child will be best supported with an NDIS plan, your early childhood partner will work with you to request NDIS access and once confirmed, develop a plan and support you to connect with providers of your choice.

## 6. Monitor your child's progress

Whatever supports your family receives, your child's progress will be monitored against the goals you set. Your early childhood partner and service providers will work with you towards improving your child's independence and participation in everyday activities.

## For more information about this booklet, please contact:

National Disability Insurance Agency  
Telephone 1800 800 110

For people with hearing or speech loss  
TTY: 1800 555 677  
Speak and Listen: 1800 555 727

For people who need help with English TIS 131 450

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