



Supporting young children early

We want to know what you think

Easy Read paper



ndis

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

How to use this paper



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this paper. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We have written this paper in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We have written some words in **bold**.

Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 37.



This Easy Read paper is a summary of another document.



You can find the other document on **our website**.



You can ask for help to read this paper. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this paper?

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What is this paper about?



We want to make the NDIS easier to use.

We also want to make sure it is:



- fair



- **consistent.**



When something is consistent, it is done the same way every time.



As part of this, we are going to improve parts of the way we support young children and families.



This means we will improve the way the Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) program works.

We explain ECEI on page 7.



But before we make these changes, we want to find out what the community thinks.

This includes:



- families of young children with disability



- carers



- disability organisations



- people who work with young children.

In this paper, we:



- tell you about the changes we want to make



- ask you questions



- explain how you can tell us what you think.

What is Early Childhood Early Intervention?



The Early Childhood Early Intervention program is for young children.



We call it ECEI.



ECEI is part of the NDIS.



We think that it's better if children can get services and support as early as possible in their lives.



This is called **early intervention**.

Why is early childhood intervention important?



It's important that children get support as early as possible when they are growing and developing.

Early intervention helps them:



- learn new skills



- take part in family and day-to-day life



- be **independent** when they are older.

When you are independent, you can do things for yourself.

What is the ECEI approach?



ECEI is for young children with a disability or **developmental delay**.



This means that your child might not develop at the same pace as other children of the same age.



For example, they might walk or talk for the first time at a different time to other children their age.



ECEI provides the support these children need.

The support includes:



- the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**

The NDIS supports people with disability across Australia.



- **Early Childhood Partners**

Early Childhood Partners are organisations who talk to families and children about support and services.



ECEI works with all the people, businesses and organisations who work together to support young children.

This includes:



- family and friends



- education services, such as pre-school or childcare



- health services, such as child health or hospital services



- community services, such as playgroups or toy libraries.



We call this the ECEI approach.

Why do we want to improve ECEI?



ECEI has helped a lot of young children with a developmental delay or disability get the support they need.



But ECEI can be confusing for families.



And it isn't always consistent.



We want to **reset** the ECEI approach.



When you reset something, you improve it based on what you know is working well.

We want to improve:



- how quickly young children receive early intervention support



- how useful our information is for families when they need to make decisions



- the quality of the supports and services young children receive



- the way we help families and children start the next stage of their life when they no longer need the NDIS.

Resetting the ECEI approach will make sure young children get:



- more support earlier in their lives



- the right supports and services for them.

It will also:



- help parents and carers take part in their child's supports



- help parents and carers use other supports in the community



- support young children and their families to take part in the community.



On the following pages we explain what changes we will make to reset ECEI.



You can find out more about ECEI on **our website**.

Resetting the ECEI approach



We will make the ECEI approach easier for families to understand.

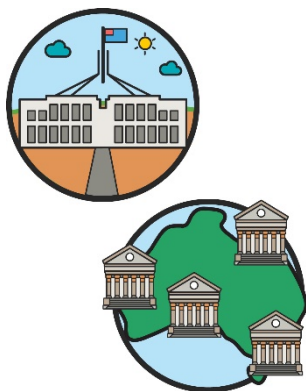


We will make new rules just for ECEI to make our:

- approach clear
- decisions consistent.

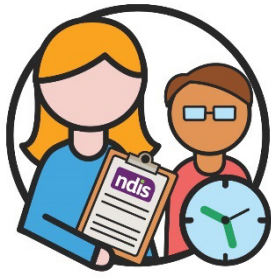


We will work together with other governments to make sure supports and services work well for young children.



This includes:

- the federal government, at the national level
- state and territory governments in different parts of Australia.



We want all young children to get the supports they need when they need them.



Some children don't need to take part in the NDIS.



These children can still get the support they need.



We will try different ways to give better supports to young children living in **remote and very remote areas**.



Remote and very remote areas are places that are far away from cities or towns.



We will make sure **independent assessments** work well for young children.

Independent assessments are a new way for the NDIA to get information about:



- how your disability or developmental delay affects your life
- what supports you need from the NDIS.



You can find out more about independent assessments on the independent assessments page of the **NDIS website**.



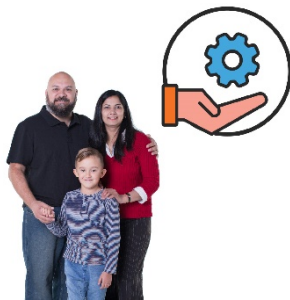
We will develop a way to do independent assessments just for children under 7 years old.

Changes to early support



Early Childhood Partners are qualified community organisations that we work with to deliver ECEI.

We want our Early Childhood Partners to:



- connect young children and their families to supports and services in their community



- help families and carers learn how to support their children at home



- help young children and their families who need more support to find and use early intervention supports.



We will make the rules about ECEI clearer.



This will help make sure we all understand why decisions are made the way they are.



We will also change the ECEI rules so that children under 9 years old can take part.



At the moment, only children under 7 years old can take part in ECEI.



We want to make this change so we support young children and families as they change from early childhood learning to primary school.

Changes to taking part in the NDIS

We will encourage families to receive supports for their children in places such as:



- their home



- an early learning centre.



We will support providers so they can travel to children who need support.

We will update our rules so making decisions about supports for children with autism is:



- fair



- consistent.



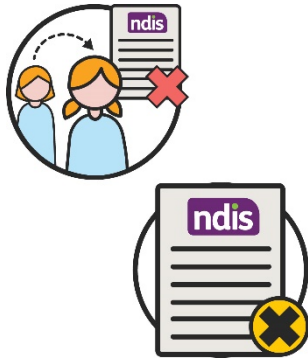
We will do more research about early intervention so we can make better choices about ECEI in the future.

Changes for leaving the NDIS



ECEI aims to help young children and their families:

- develop their skills
- reach their goals
- find supports in the community.



This means that some young children might:

- need NDIS support for a while, but not throughout their lives
- not need NDIS support at all throughout their lives.



We want to improve how we help families when they are ready to leave the NDIS.



We will make the **progress review** process easier for young children and their families.



A progress review looks at:

- how your skills have improved
- if your supports are working well.

We will make sure **early childhood providers**:



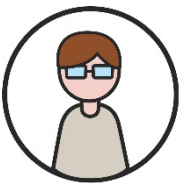
- talk to the family and child



- write a report on what is working well.



Early childhood providers deliver services or supports to children with a developmental delay or disability.



They can be an:

- individual
- organisation.



How to tell us what you think



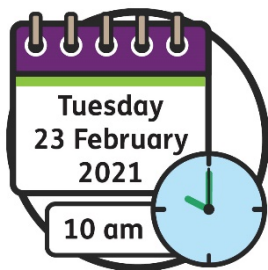
We want to know what you think about these changes.



You can tell us what you think by answering the questions on the following pages.



Or you can tell us what you think on **our website**.



Please tell us what you think by 10 am on Tuesday 23 February 2021.

Questions for you to think about



We want to know what you think about the changes to the ECEI program.

You can answer:

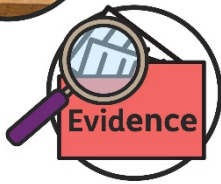


- all of the questions



- some of the questions.

We want to make sure that families understand the terms we use, such as:



- best practice
- capacity building
- natural settings
- evidence.



How can we help you understand what these terms mean?

You can write your answer here:





What is the best way for us to check in with you about how your child is reaching their goals?

You can write your answer here:



Would a report from an early childhood provider be helpful for seeing how well your child is going?

You can write your answer here:

How can we support families to connect with services that are:

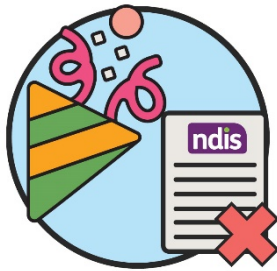


- funded by the government?
- available to everyone in the community?

You can write your answer here:

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A large, empty rectangular box with a purple border, intended for writing an answer.



How can we make leaving the NDIS something to celebrate?

You can write your answer here:

A circular icon of a pencil writing on a sheet of paper, located in the top right corner of the writing area.

A large, empty rectangular box with a purple border, intended for writing an answer.



Do you live in a remote or very remote area?



If you do, what ideas do you have on getting early childhood supports to work in your community?

You can write your answer here:

A circular icon showing a document with horizontal lines and a pencil pointing to a small square box on the page.

How can our Early Childhood Partners and early childhood providers support you to connect with other families in your community?

You can write your answer here:

A circular icon showing a document with horizontal lines and a pencil pointing to a small square box on the page.



Are you interested in helping us to come up with a way to make it easier to connect with other families in the community?

You can write your answer here:



How can we remove **barriers** to make sure all young children with a developmental delay or disability and their families receive the same support?



Barriers are things that stop you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.

You can write your answer here:



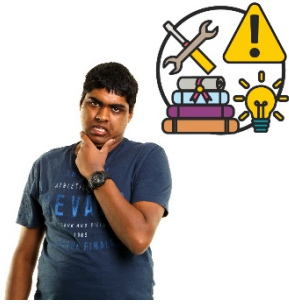
There should be a set way to make sure early childhood providers have the right skills to work with children with a developmental delay or disability.



Do you agree with this?

You can write your answer here:

A large, empty rectangular box with a purple border, intended for writing an answer. In the top right corner of the box, there is a circular icon containing a document with lines of text and a yellow pencil pointing to the bottom right corner of the document.



Do you think that a set way to make sure early childhood providers have the right skills would work well?

You can write your answer here:



Could having a set way to make sure early childhood providers have the right skills:

- have any problems?
- affect the way they deliver their supports or services?

You can write your answer here:





Who do you think would be best to decide if early childhood providers have the right skills?

You can write your answer here:

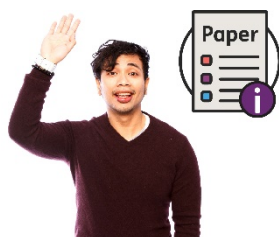
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More information



You can find out more about ECEI on our website.

www.ndis.gov.au



If you would like more information about what is in this paper, you can contact us.



www.ndis.gov.au



1800 800 110



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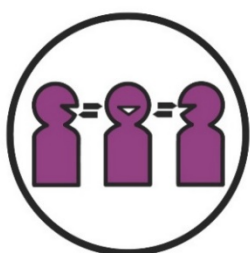
Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature.

www.ndis.gov.au/webchat/start

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list



Barriers

Barriers are things that stop you from doing something you:

- need to do
- want to do.



Consistent

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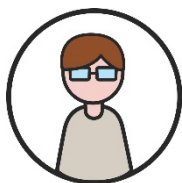
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This is called early intervention.



Independent

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National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

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A progress review looks at:

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Reset

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Remote and very remote areas

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