# **Transcript – Getting help for your child**

[Narrator] Getting help for your child.

This video talks about how the NDIS supports children younger than 9 who have developmental delay or disability and their families. We call this the NDIS Early childhood approach.

The early childhood approach is all about supporting children with developmental delay or disability to access supports early in their life.

It's also about providing support for families who have concerns about their child's development.

The early childhood approach helps build skills and capacity to take part in daily activities, achieve the best possible outcomes and helps children and their families to be included in their community.

If you have any concerns about the way your child is developing, you should first speak to someone who knows your child well, like your doctor, health professional or early childhood educator.

You don't need a diagnosis from your doctor to access supports through our early childhood approach.

After talking with your doctor, health professional or early childhood educator, they might suggest you should contact an early childhood partner.

The National Disability Insurance Agency uses partners in the community to deliver the NDIS in many areas around Australia.

Early childhood partners support children younger than 9 years of age and their families.

Local area coordination partners support people between 9 and 64 years of age.

If there is no partner in your area, the local NDIS office will support you.

Early childhood partners can talk to you about any concerns you have and may discuss with you how your child plays and moves around, does things to take care of themselves, socialises with other children, or communicates their needs and wants.

When you meet with an NDIS early childhood partner, they will work with you to understand your child's needs, look at other information and reports, discuss a variety of support options and make some recommendations.

Early childhood partners can give you helpful information and connect you to the services that best meet your child's needs. We call this Early Connections.

They may recommend early supports if your child is younger than 6 with developmental concerns.

These supports are designed to promote everyday learning in your home and other environments.

If your child has a developmental delay or disability, an early childhood partner can also support you to put together information and evidence to determine if your child is eligible to apply for the NDIS.

A child's early years are important as they set up how they will learn and develop later in life.

Our early childhood approach is about giving children and their families the right supports to enable them to have the best possible start in life.