

Accessing supports for my child

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The NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) approach is designed for children aged birth to six years. The ECEI approach will help children with developmental delay or disability and their families to achieve better long-term outcomes.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is in the process of selecting locally based service providers experienced in early childhood intervention (Early Childhood Partners) in line with the national NDIA roll out (some of these Early Childhood Partners are in operation). The Early Childhood Partners are the first point of contact for parents/carers who have a young child with developmental delay or disability.

1. What happens?

If you think your child needs support you can contact an NDIS Early Childhood Partner in your local community to get help with the support your child needs. Early Childhood Partner support may include:

- Help to understand your child's support needs.
- Guidance and information to help you make decisions about appropriate supports and services for your child and family.
- Assistance to access appropriate mainstream and community supports.
- Short-term early childhood intervention.
- Monitoring your child's progress.
- Support to access an NDIS plan if your child requires more long-term early childhood intervention support.

Your Early Childhood Partner will work with you towards improving your child's functional outcomes, so they can achieve greater independence and participation in everyday activities.

2. Getting ready to meet your Early Childhood Partner

Before meeting your Early Childhood Partner you can:

- Gather any information to assist your local Early Childhood Partner to build a picture of your child. This helps them understand the impact of your child's developmental delay or disability on daily life and social participation. It also helps to determine the services and supports your child/family may need.
- Identify any activities or supports currently working well for your family and your child.
- Think about the community activities your child is currently doing. Would you like help to find social or community based groups or activities for your child to participate in?
- Consider your child's current supports. Do you and your family have established relationships with providers you would like to continue? Would you like to work with new providers?

3. Accessing your Early Childhood supports

3.1 Referral services and supports

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

3.2 Monitor your child's progress

Your Early Childhood Partner and service providers will work with you towards improving your child's independence and participation in everyday activities.

3.3 Getting an NDIS plan

If it is identified your child will be best supported with an NDIS plan, your Early Childhood Partner will work with you to request NDIS access. Once confirmed, they will help you develop a NDIS plan and support you to connect with providers of your choice.

To find an Early Childhood Partner in your local community, go to www.ndis.gov.au/ecei

More information about Accessing supports for your child is available at www.ndis.gov.au