

EASY READ

The NDIS Early Childhood Approach

This document explains the NDIS early childhood approach in Easy Read. Easy Read uses short sentences and simple words to make information easier to understand.

What is this document about?

- This is help for young children and their families.
- It is for children younger than 6 with a developmental delay.
- It is for children younger than 9 with disability.
- It is also for children younger than 6 with developmental concerns.
- Your child does not need a diagnosis to get support.

Who do we mean when we say...

You: anyone who cares for a child. This could be a parent, carer, or legal representative.

Child: any child younger than 9.

We / our: the NDIA (National Disability Insurance Agency).

What is early childhood intervention?

Early childhood intervention gives support to young children and their families.

It helps your child to:

- grow and develop
- feel well and happy, along with their family
- take part in their community.

Best practice means:

- Children learn best in everyday places, like home, childcare, or playgroup.
- Families work together with a team of early childhood professionals.
- One person on the team is your main contact. We call them a key worker.

How do we work with you and your child?

- We put your family at the centre of every decision.
- You know your child best.
- We focus on what your child can already do.
- We support you and your child as early as possible.

Who can get help?

- Anyone with concerns about their child's development can get help.
- Your child does not need a diagnosis.
- Usually you will have already spoken with your doctor, child health nurse, or another health professional.
- They can help connect you with an early childhood partner.

What do these words mean?

Developmental concerns: your child may need some extra help. This might not be needed for a long time.

Developmental delay: your child needs a lot more support than other children their age.

Disability: your child has a difficulty that is likely to last a long time.

What is the aim of the early childhood approach?

- To give you support quickly.
- To give you good information about early childhood support.
- To help you feel confident to support your child.
- To help your child do everyday activities.
- To help your child join in at playgroup, childcare, or preschool.
- To connect you with other families and support groups.

What is an early childhood partner?

- An early childhood partner is a local organisation we fund.
- They have staff who understand young children and disability.
- They help you and your child find the right support.

An early childhood partner can:

- connect you to local services, like playgroups and childcare
- give you information about your child's development
- offer a short period of early support, if it will help
- help you apply to the NDIS, if you want to
- check in on your child's progress over time.

What are early connections?

Early connections are for children younger than 9 and their families. They give you fast access to support.

Early connections can help you:

- talk about your goals for your child
- find playgroups and parent support groups
- connect with health services and childcare or preschool
- get information about your child's development
- meet other families
- apply to the NDIS, if you want to.

What if my child becomes an NDIS participant?

- Your child may get an NDIS plan.
- The plan will include funding for early childhood supports.
- A team of early childhood professionals will work with your child.
- We will check in with you often about your child's progress.
- We will talk with you about what happens as your child gets older.

What if there is no early childhood partner near me?

- Some remote areas do not have an early childhood partner.
- If this happens, speak with your doctor, child health nurse, or educator first.
- You can also contact us for more information.

Where can I get more help?

How to get help	Details
Phone	1800 800 110
Website	ndis.gov.au
In person	Ask your early childhood partner or local NDIS office.

This Easy Read document is a simplified summary based on the NDIS early childhood approach guideline (correct as at 15 December 2025). Always check [ndis.gov.au/our-guidelines](https://www.ndis.gov.au/our-guidelines) for the latest version.