

Early Childhood - NDIS

HOW TO ACCESS EARLY CHILDHOOD EARLY INTERVENTION (ECEI)

Who can access NDIS Early Intervention funding support?

The NDIS has created an **ECEI approach** to fund supports for children aged 0-6 years who have a developmental delay or disability and their families. The ECEI approach supports families to help children develop the skills they need to take part in daily activities and achieve the best possible outcomes throughout their life. Your child must meet residency requirements¹ to be eligible for funded ECEI supports, and you will need to provide evidence of your child's disability.²

Important things to know

Is ECEI available where I live?

It's now available across Australia – if your child is aged from 0-6 and concerns have been identified about your child's development you can contact your local ECEI partner for information and referrals.

Do I need to apply for access every year?

No, but you will need to meet with your child's planner every year to discuss how your child's needs and goals have changed.

Is my child eligible for early intervention without a diagnosis?

Yes, if your child is experiencing difficulties or delays in their development as indicated by a relevant health professional (e.g., child health nurse, GP, paediatrician, psychologist), you can contact your local ECEI Partner's office for referral information.

How do I access Early Childhood Early Intervention for my child?³

How do I apply for funding for my child?

There are many ECEI Partners in every state and territory across Australia who can assist parents with planning and accessing early intervention services for their child. You can visit the [NDIS website](#) or call **1800 800 110** to find your local ECEI Partner.

What do I do after I find my local ECEI Partner?

Your ECEI Partner will provide you with a referral form that you'll need to fill out. You can access this form via their website, by going to their office or by having them mail you a copy.

Completing this referral form will start the process of accessing funding for your child's early intervention services.

Can someone help me fill out the referral form?

You can ask your local GP, paediatrician, child health nurse, or any health professional working with your child to help you fill out the form. Some health professionals can submit the referral form on your behalf, otherwise they will give it to you to take back to your local ECEI Partner Office.

What Happens Next?

What happens after I submit the referral form?

When you have provided all necessary information, the NDIA will decide whether you are eligible for the NDIS, and send you a letter to inform you of their decision.

If you are eligible you will be contacted by your ECEI Partner to make an appointment for your child's planning meeting.

If you are not eligible you can still get information and referral from the ECEI Coordinator to access supports and services, or you can request to have the decision reviewed.⁴

Get your documents together

Gather any letters or reports about your child from health professionals to bring with you to your child's planning meeting. These documents could come from child health nurses, paediatricians, occupational therapists, speech pathologists or early childhood educators.

You can read more about ECEI in your state by clicking on the link below:

- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [South Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

The NDIS has also created a [playlist](#)⁵ of ECEI videos to help you learn more about the program:

1. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/am-i-eligible> Eligibility Checklist Question 2
2. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/how-apply/information-support-your-request/providing-evidence-disability-children>
3. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/understanding/families-and-carers/how-ecei-works-step-step-process>
4. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/how-review-planning-decision>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLTwZ-K9vkmo5YVBi0Of1HGuzdfX7c9htj>