



Early connections

Easy Read fact sheet



ndis

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

How to use this fact sheet



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this fact sheet.

When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

Not bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 21.



This is an Easy Read summary of another fact sheet.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other fact sheet on the NDIA website.

www.ndis.gov.au/resources



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What is in this fact sheet?

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About early connections



We can connect you to information and support if:

- your child has a disability
- you worry about how your child is growing.

We call this 'early connections'.



Early connections can help you and your child:

- learn to do more things
- build your skills.



Your child does not have to be a **participant**.

Participants are people with disability who take part in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



You can learn more about early connections on the NDIS website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/early-childhood/early-connections



You can also learn more about how we support young children with disability on the NDIS website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/early-childhood/early-childhood-approach

Who can get early connections



We can support you with early connections if your child:

- is under 9 years old
- has a disability.



We can also support you with early connections if your child:

- is under 6 years old
- has **developmental delay**.



When a child has a developmental delay, it means they do not grow or develop in the same time as other children of the same age.

This means they may need lots of extra help to do everyday things.



We can support you with early connections if your child:

- is under 6 years old
- has **developmental concerns**.



When a child has developmental concerns, they might not develop in the same time as other children of the same age.

But they might not need as much help as children with developmental delay.



If your child is under 6 years old, they do not need to have a **diagnosis**.



A diagnosis is when a doctor tells you what health conditions or disabilities they think your child has.



We cannot provide early connections if your child is 9 or older.

We can provide with community connections instead.



You can learn more about community connections on the NDIS website.

[ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/home/
community-connections](https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/home/community-connections)

How early connections can help

Early connections can help you:



- find information about how your child might grow



- connect you with other families who have experiences like yours



- help you find services in your community.



Getting information and support early can mean your child needs less support in the future.



Early connections can also help you:

- decide if you should apply to the NDIS
- get support to apply for the NDIS for your child.

How you can get early connections



If you want to talk to someone about how your child is growing, you should talk to:

- a doctor or health service
- your child's teacher.



They can help you decide if early connections are right for you and your child.



They can also connect you with an **early childhood partner**.

An early childhood partner is someone who supports children with disability and their families.



You can contact an early childhood partner yourself.

You can also contact the NDIS to ask about early connections.



You can find out how to contact us on page 20.

Who you can get early connections from



Our early childhood partners deliver early connections.



They know how to support children with disability in the right way.

They can also support children and their families with:



- developmental delay



- developmental concerns.



Your early childhood partner will work with you to collect information about your child.

This information can include:



- reports from your child's doctors and teachers



- anything you or your early childhood partner have noticed about your child



- results from tools that check how your child is growing



- what support you and your child have.



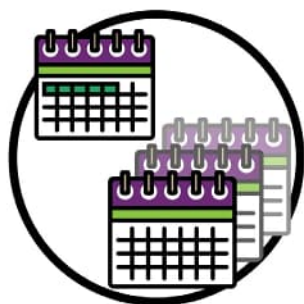
Your early childhood partner will think about the information you give them.

Then they will tell you what supports they think you need.



Your early connections are about what you and your child need.

They might be different to the early connections other people have.



The early connections could go for:

- a short time
- a long time, like a year.



If you still need support, you can contact your early childhood partner again.

Types of early connections

Information that can help you

We can support you to find information about:



- how your child might grow



- how you can support your child day-to-day.

Mainstream and community supports



We can connect you to:

- community supports
- **mainstream supports.**



Mainstream supports are from other parts of the government.

For example, health and education services.



You can find out more about mainstream and community supports on the NDIS website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/mainstream-and-community-supports

Other families



We can connect you to other families and parents with experiences like yours.

For example, they might have a child with the same disability your child has.

You can meet the families or parents:



- one-on-one



- in groups.

They can:



- share their experiences



- give you information and advice



- help you get support.

Early supports



We might suggest early supports if your child:

- is under 6 years old
- has developmental concerns.

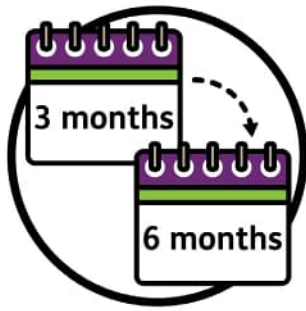
Early supports are:



- mainstream supports



- community supports.



They usually go for 3 to 6 months.



They can go for up to 12 months.



You can find out more about early supports on the NDIS website.

[ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/
connections-early-supports](https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/connections-early-supports)

Support to apply to the NDIS



You might decide to apply to the NDIS if your child needs more support.



We can help you find out if your child can get support from the NDIS.



We can also help you collect the information you need to apply.



You can find out more about applying to the NDIS on the NDIS website.

[ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/home/
becoming-participant/applying-ndis](https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/home/becoming-participant/applying-ndis)

More information

For more information about this fact sheet, please contact us.



You can call us.

1800 800 110



You can send us an email.

enquiries@ndis.gov.au



You can visit one of our offices in person.

www.ndis.gov.au/contact/locations

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this fact sheet mean.



Developmental concerns

When a child has developmental concerns, they might not develop in the same time as other children of the same age.

But they might not need as much help as children with developmental delay.



Developmental delay

When a child has a developmental delay, it means they do not grow or develop in the same time as other children of the same age.

This means they may need lots of extra help to do everyday things.



Diagnosis

A diagnosis is when a doctor tells you what health conditions or disabilities they think your child has.



Early childhood partner

An early childhood partner is someone who supports children with disability and their families.



Mainstream supports

Mainstream supports are from other parts of the government.

For example, health and education services.



Participant

Participants are people with disability who take part in the NDIS.



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Notes





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