

# The Inclusion Support Program

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) assists early childhood education and care (ECEC) services to include children with additional needs alongside their typically developing peers in order that all children have genuine opportunities to access, participate and achieve positive learning outcomes as per the Early Years Learning Framework and My Time Our Place.

## Additional needs may arise for children who:

- ▶ Have a disability or developmental delay
- ▶ Are presenting with challenging behaviours
- ▶ Have a serious medical or health condition, including mental health
- ▶ Are presenting with trauma-related behaviours

## Children from:

- ▶ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
- ▶ Culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ▶ Refugee or humanitarian backgrounds

may also require special considerations to ensure they are able to fully participate in ECEC services.

## Eligible ECEC services include:

- ▶ Centre-Based Day Care services
- ▶ Family Day Care services
- ▶ Outside School Hours Care services

*The Australian Government funded Inclusion Agency is managed by KU Children's Services, in partnership with Include Me and Gowrie NSW*

## Contact us for further information

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[www.inclusionagencynswact.org.au](http://www.inclusionagencynswact.org.au)

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## Inclusion Support Program

# Specialist Equipment Library

## Information for families

*Providing specialist equipment support to NSW and ACT early childhood education and care services*



*Inclusion benefits all children both now and for the future*



In partnership with





## What is the Specialist Equipment Library?

The Specialist Equipment Library (SEL) is a key component of the NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency.

The SEL provides eligible early childhood education and care services with access to a range of resources, free of charge, to increase their capacity and capability to provide quality inclusive practices and support your child's inclusion.

The SEL supports children with additional needs to be included alongside their friends.

### Types of equipment available from the SEL may include (but are not limited to):

- ▶ Portable ramps to create access to the environment
- ▶ Standing frames and full support swings to allow a child with physical support needs to participate in the daily program and activities
- ▶ Specialised furniture such as chairs, tables, and positioning equipment to allow a child with physical needs to participate in all experiences
- ▶ Hoists, slings, harnesses, hydraulic change tables, toilet sets or steps, potty chairs, and seating or posture aids to assist educators to respond to children's personal care needs

**Please note:** Specialist equipment resources cannot be used for therapy purposes. **To access the SEL Catalogue, visit** [www.inclusionagency.nswact.org.au/about-the-inclusion-support-program/specialist-equipment-library](http://www.inclusionagency.nswact.org.au/about-the-inclusion-support-program/specialist-equipment-library)

## Benefits of using specialist equipment

A service's need for specialist equipment to facilitate and support the inclusion of a child (or children) is identified, through conversations and collaboration between educators, families, therapists and Inclusion Professionals.

Access to specialist equipment can support your child to:

- ▶ Join in games with friends
- ▶ Stand or sit at a table activity alongside other children
  - Encouraging shared social interactions
  - Turn taking
  - Shared fun
- ▶ Access a variety of activities provided by the program for all children including:
  - Fine motor experiences
  - Sensory activities such as sand and water play
  - Creative and art opportunities
  - Cognitive challenges and learning
  - Group activities

## Borrowing specialist equipment

To borrow specialist equipment a service must:

- ▶ Discuss their need for specialist equipment with their Inclusion Professional, and
- ▶ Identify the need for specialist equipment through developing or updating their Strategic Inclusion Plan, within a set timeframe, with their Inclusion Professional

If specialist equipment is recommended by a relevant professional (e.g. occupational therapist or physiotherapist). The recommendation must be:

- ▶ Endorsed and agreed to by an Inclusion Professional before an application to access specialist equipment is submitted
- ▶ Supported by the service's Strategic Inclusion Plan, when finalised

## How you can assist your child care service to access equipment

- ▶ Provide the contact details of therapists/specialists (such as occupational therapist or physiotherapist) working with your child to the service
- ▶ Participate in ongoing conversations with the service educators and your child's therapists to determine:
  - The challenges for your child's participation
  - A vision of the possibilities for inclusion
  - The equipment required to best facilitate this vision for inclusion and your child's engagement and social interactions with their peers and the program
- ▶ Sign a Permission to Share Personal Information form provided to you by your child's service
- ▶ Sign the Specialist Equipment Library Loan Request Form

## Further information

Additional information about the Specialist Equipment Library can be accessed via the NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency website at:

[www.inclusionagency.nswact.org.au/about-the-inclusion-support-program/specialist-equipment-library](http://www.inclusionagency.nswact.org.au/about-the-inclusion-support-program/specialist-equipment-library)

and within the Inclusion Support Program Guidelines Version 2.3 July 2021

[www.dese.gov.au/inclusion-support-program-1/resources/inclusion-support-program-isp-guidelines](http://www.dese.gov.au/inclusion-support-program-1/resources/inclusion-support-program-isp-guidelines)

**To discuss your specialist equipment needs, please speak with your child's service and therapists.**