

Inclusion means that:

- ▶ Every child has the right to participate in high quality early childhood education
- ▶ All children are viewed as being capable learners and contributors in ECEC services
- ▶ The strengths and interests of each child are acknowledged
- ▶ The focus is on the whole environment and not just on an individual child
- ▶ Diversity is acknowledged, respected and viewed as a resource for learning, growth and change
- ▶ All educators are responsible for identifying inclusion barriers and learning about ways to overcome them
- ▶ Educators build partnerships with families, other professionals and the wider community

The Inclusion Support Program

The Inclusion Support Program (ISP) assists 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.

The Australian Government funded NSW/ACT 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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Inclusion Support Program

NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency

Providing inclusion support to early childhood education and care services in NSW and the ACT



Inclusion benefits all children both now and for the future



In partnership with





NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency

The NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency (IA), managed by KU Children's Services, in partnership with Include Me and Gowrie NSW, is part of the Inclusion Support Program.

The Inclusion Support Program aims to build the capacity and capability of educators to address participation barriers for all children through implementing quality inclusive practices.

The NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency provides free tailored inclusion support to eligible early childhood education and care services including:

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

The NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency includes the Specialist Equipment Library (SEL). The SEL loans a range of specialist equipment, free of charge, to early childhood education and care (ECEC) services to enable children to access and participate in all aspects of an ECEC program.

Support for Educators

Educators are directly supported by our team of Inclusion Professionals, who are based at Inclusion Hubs across NSW and the ACT.

Inclusion Professionals use a strengths-based approach, including coaching and practical inclusion advice when supporting each service. Support is provided through a combination of phone appointments, online appointments and service visits.

How will we support your service?

Inclusion Professionals recognise that the inclusion journey of each service and educator is unique. The support provided is tailored to meet the individual needs of each service.

Inclusion Professionals support educators to:

- ▶ Acknowledge and identify their strengths
- ▶ Reflect on their understanding of inclusion and identify inclusion barriers
- ▶ Critically reflect on their practices
- ▶ Overcome specific inclusion barriers by identifying and planning practical strategies and solutions through the development of a Strategic Inclusion Plan
- ▶ Implement their Strategic Inclusion Plan, reflect on their progress and identify next steps
- ▶ Promote an understanding of inclusion principles with families and other professionals
- ▶ Access all Inclusion Support Program (ISP) resources including the Inclusion Development Fund, if required, to support children to access and participate in every aspect of the program
- ▶ Work in partnership with families, community groups, services and organisations

Strategic Inclusion Plan

The development of a Strategic Inclusion Plan (SIP) is the first step in accessing support from the Inclusion Agency.

The SIP is a self-guided inclusion assessment and planning tool for services, which includes strategies for improving and embedding inclusive practice, in line with the National Quality Standard (NQS). The development of a SIP recognises the current inclusive capacity and capability of a service and outlines the strategies and actions educators will implement to include all children.

A SIP is developed, implemented and evaluated within a 12 month period. This plan can be updated during this period to reflect any changes and record the progress made in implementing the strategies and actions outlined.

Inclusion is not about 'fixing' the child or improving their skills so that they fit into the ECEC environment, it is about changing what we do as educators so that all children can participate.