

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 Inclusion Support Program is funded by the Australian Government to provide Inclusion Agency support and is managed by KU Children's Services.

Contact us for further information

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Inclusion Support Program

Specialist Equipment Library

Information for Therapists

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



Inclusion benefits all children both now and for the future



What is the Specialist Equipment Library?

The Specialist Equipment Library (SEL) is a key component of the Inclusion Support Program.

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 address participation barriers.

The SEL supports children with additional needs to be included alongside their typically developing peers.

Types of equipment available from the SEL may include (but is 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 a copy of our SEL Catalogue, visit:

www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au/about/specialist-equipment-library/specialist-equipment-library-catalogue

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

When a service's need for specialist equipment to facilitate and support the inclusion of a child (or children) is identified, the Inclusion Professional will:

- ▶ Discuss the SEL loan process
- ▶ Discuss the practicalities and responsibilities of accessing and using equipment
- ▶ Support educators to identify how they can use the equipment in inclusive ways
- ▶ Assist educators to identify and plan for ways the equipment can be used to support the child/ren's participation alongside typically developing peers
- ▶ Support the service to complete the SEL request form and gain input from the child/ren's family and relevant therapists
- ▶ Submit the loan application to the SEL on the service's behalf

The SEL team will contact the service to discuss and process the application.

Points for therapists to consider when recommending specialist equipment

- ▶ What are the specific inclusion barriers that the specialist equipment will be utilised to overcome?
- ▶ Does the recommended specialist equipment support the inclusion of children to engage with typically developing peers?
- ▶ Will educators be able to use the equipment in a safe way? Is training needed and are there any risks to educators regarding storage and setup?
- ▶ Is a relevant therapist available to provide training for educators to ensure the equipment is used effectively and safely?
- ▶ Is a relevant therapist available to adjust and fit the equipment to the child?
- ▶ What impact will the equipment have on the existing environment?
- ▶ Recommendations need to consider equipment size, available space and educator capacity.

Further information

Information about the Specialist Equipment Library including the Specialist Equipment Library Catalogue can be accessed at:
NSW/ACT: www.inclusionagency.nswact.org.au/about/specialist-equipment-library

QLD: www.inclusionsupportqld.org.au/about/specialist-equipment-library

and within the Inclusion Support Program Guidelines:

www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/resources/inclusion-support-program-guidelines