

# Why is Capacity-Building Practice important?

*Building skills...*

06

**Aims to build the skills and knowledge of people, who spend the most time with your child so they will have a greater impact on your child's learning and development.**

Your child spends the most time with you, your family and in their early childhood services. With knowledge, skills and confidence you can all provide the most effective early childhood intervention for your child on an on-going basis. Capacity-building practices assists parents, family members and professionals to use their existing abilities and develop new skills to support your child's learning and development.

*What happens in between early intervention sessions is what makes the most difference!*

Your Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) practitioner can provide relevant and specific information and coaching to build your skills and utilize the ones you already have in order to meet the needs of your child. Skill building can be extended to other family members as well as other significant people working with your child, such as your child's kindergarten teacher or child care educator.

## Your ECI Practitioner should:

- recognise what you do well already and build the skills that you and your family need to make the most of your child's daily routines and activities;
- build on the existing skills and knowledge of your child's early childhood educator/teacher to increase their capacity to support your child's learning and development; and
- look at the issues and learning opportunities through your child's day so that plans have the best chance of being carried out across your child's every day routines and activities.

*"I knew how to play with my child, but didn't realize how play could be therapy too, until I was shown.*

*Now when I play with Sophie I include some fine motor skills that are fun and meaningful. I feel so confident in what I am doing and have really seen progress. I have shown Sophie's educator what to do and how to include it in child care in a fun way. Now I feel like the coach."*

*A Key Worker is the nominated ECI practitioner who is the main point of contact for your family and helps coordinate the delivery of early childhood intervention services for your child.*

*An ECI practitioner is a professional who works with your child and family to deliver early childhood intervention. This could be a key worker, therapist or other specialist.*



This information sheet is part of a set of resources for families on the principles of 'Best Practice in Early Childhood Intervention'.

*Early Childhood Intervention Australia (WA/NT Alliance) (2017)*  
Choosing Quality Early Childhood Intervention Services and Supports for Your Child: [www.ecia.org.au](http://www.ecia.org.au)

*Carers Victoria and ECIA Victorian Chapter (2013)*  
Making a Start: Building supports for your child and family: [www.eciavic.org.au](http://www.eciavic.org.au)