

# What is Collaborative Teamwork Practice?

*The team around your child...*

05

Your family, Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) practitioners and others work together as a team around your child. A key worker is nominated to coordinate the team.

Sometimes there can be many people working with you and your child all at the same time. This can be stressful especially when important information and skills are not shared between them and your family. Therefore, ECI for your child works best when a team is formed around your child that work together.

The team around your child can include: your child's ECI practitioners, early childhood educators/teachers, paediatrician, and other significant people. You and your family are central to the team and are the final decision makers. A key worker is often nominated as the main contact person for your family and coordinates the sharing of information and supports of the team. Your key worker is usually one of the practitioners from the ECI team, such as the teacher, speech pathologist, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, psychologist or other professional. The key worker always works as part of the team making use of the skills and knowledge of your family and other team members.

## The role of the key worker is to:

- build trusting and positive relationships with you and your family in order to understand your needs and priorities;
- act as the main point of contact for you and your family to help coordinate information, supports and services;
- act as a link and share information and skills between all members of your child's team;
- consult with other ECI practitioners and work with your child's kindergarten teacher or child care educator to support your child's development;
- work in your child's natural environments, such as home, early childhood settings and the community using your child's daily routines and activities; and
- help with the transition of your child to child care, kindergarten or school.

*"My head spins when I think of all the different services Ashley was involved in and all the appointments we went to. I just couldn't keep up with it all, let alone try to keep everyone in the loop. That was until Ashley's key worker came on board. She knew about local services and coordinated the team so it really worked for Ashley and us. We benefited from the combined knowledge and skills shared by the team so we felt more able to support Ashley's development without all the stress of finding what we needed. We are so grateful to our team and key worker".*

*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)