

What does Culturally Responsive Practice mean?

All families are unique...

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Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) practitioners provide services and supports in ways that are sensitive and respectful of your family's cultural, language and social backgrounds, as well as your values and beliefs.

All families are unique with diverse backgrounds, strengths and needs. Culture, values, beliefs and community life are important in all families' lives and have a big impact on children's experiences. Therefore, ECI practitioners need to be aware and respectful of each family's diversity and create a welcoming and culturally inclusive environment.

It is by working in partnership with your family in a flexible and responsive way that opportunities to support your child's learning and development can be optimised.

Respecting diversity in your family means that:

- services you access for your child and family are welcoming and culturally appropriate in meeting your needs;
- your family is respected and actively involved in your child's learning and development; and
- supports and services are responsive and flexible to meet your family's needs.

Additional supports:

- Interpreters may be used to help your family and service providers to communicate with each other effectively.
- Translation of information can be provided in the language of your choice.
- Information can be presented in different ways so it is easier to understand. These can include pictures, video clips and Easy English.
- Connect with people from your own culture.

Ask your ECI service provider if these additional supports are available to you.

"We don't have the words in our language to describe my son's disability so it was very important to us to have information. Our key worker organised an interpreter and some information was translated into our language so we understood what we could do for our son."

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

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