

Why is Evidence-Based and Accountable Practice important?

Quality services and supports...

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Ensures that practitioners working with your child have appropriate qualifications and base their intervention on sound clinical evidence and research.

When receiving Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) you will want to make sure that what is provided is based on evidence informed by the latest research and practice. You also need to ensure that ECI practitioners have the relevant qualifications, skills and experience to work with you and your child.

ECI practitioners base their intervention for your child on sound clinical evidence, their own expertise and experience, plus all the knowledge you bring about your child to develop an individualised plan to meet the needs of your child and your family.

Your ECI Practitioner should:

- provide you with complete and unbiased information about intervention and strategies;
- use intervention strategies that are based on research and sound clinical evidence;
- explain to you the evidence behind the strategies or interventions they are providing; and
- measure themselves against the best practices found in the National Guidelines: Best Practices in Early Childhood Intervention to ensure all children receive the appropriate quality and level of support.

It is important to talk to your ECI practitioner about the evidence behind the strategies or interventions that are being used. Always gather as much information as you can before you start so that you can check that there is sound evidence to say they work. Check that interventions are safe and have good outcomes.

To ensure that interventions are reliable and work towards meeting goals you could ask the following questions:

1. How will I know whether the intervention has worked?
2. What changes in my child should I expect to see?
3. Does this meet with the ECI Best Practice Guidelines?

Interventions that are based on scientifically validated and reliable evidence are the ones most likely to work, be worth the time and energy you invest in it and be safe for your child.

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