

What is Family-centred and Strengths-based Practice?

The importance of families...

01

Your family is seen as equal and active partners working with Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) practitioners. Goals and service delivery are based on your family life, priorities and choices. Practices build on your family's strengths and assists you to develop your own set of resources.

You and your family are at the centre of your child's development and the one constant in your child's life. ECI recognises the impact that families have on their children and understands that families know their child and family life best. Therefore, the role of ECI is to work alongside you to support your child's learning and development in practical ways.

ECI practitioners work with your family's strengths and interests by building on what you and your child are already doing well and help to develop new skills, knowledge and supports as needed. Your family will be involved in all decisions about what you want to achieve for your child and how you want to achieve it.

ECI practitioners should:

- recognise the central role that you and your family have in your child's life;
- respect that you and your family know your child best;
- regard your family as active and equal partners;
- discuss with you what is working well and what area of further support is needed;
- work with you to develop strategies for your child that are based on your family's strengths, your family life, your goals, routines, priorities and choices; and
- assist you to develop your own support networks, if needed.

"I felt that I could talk to our key worker about what I wanted for my child and that I was really heard when it came to setting up goals.

Because I had so much input the goals were real strategies that we could do as a family in our everyday life".

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