

What is Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)?

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is a process of supporting the development of young children, with disability and/or developmental delay and their families.

The aim of ECI is to provide you and other important people with the knowledge, skills and support to meet the needs of your child. Specialised supports and resources are provided by your ECI services to support your child's learning, development and participation. The ECI service may consist of practitioners such as speech pathologists; occupational therapists; physiotherapists; psychologists; teachers and other professionals.

Early Childhood Intervention aims to give children the best start in life.

Your child's learning and development is most rapid in their early childhood years. Supports, experiences and opportunities provided early in life can impact greatly on your child's learning and development. You and your family are the first and most important people in your child's life and have the greatest impact on your child's development. That is because you not only know your child best but you are the one constant in your child's life.

With additional information and skills, provided by an ECI service, you can further support your child's development. ECI received early in life can potentially reduce the amount of supports needed in later life.

ECI services can work with your family to:

- coordinate the services your child and family needs;
- provide therapy and service planning to further develop your child's skills and abilities;
- build and strengthen your skills and knowledge to respond to the needs of your child;
- support your child's inclusion into everyday environments; and
- help to build a team around your child.



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