



Understanding the early childhood approach

What is the early childhood approach?

The early childhood approach supports children younger than 7 with developmental delay or disability. The early childhood approach gives them access to support that matches what they need.

We provide early childhood supports **for free**.

How we can help your child

We can help you get the information and supports you need if you're worried about your child's development or if your child has a disability. You might be worried about how they:

- ▶ communicate what they need and want
- ▶ understand what you say to them
- ▶ behave
- ▶ learn
- ▶ play with others
- ▶ sit, walk or crawl.

We can also tell you about other services in your community that may be able to help you.

What to expect from us

We will talk with you about the goals you want your child to achieve as they grow.

We will:

- ▶ suggest which supports can best help your child and family. This could mean support from a general practitioner (GP), community health service or your local playgroup
- ▶ work with you to find ways to support your child's development and learning at home
- ▶ if your child is eligible, help you apply for the NDIS and support you with the next steps.

You can ask a support person to be with you when you meet with us. If you would like someone there with you during the meeting, you can ask a trusted friend or family member to come with you. Or, you can ask a professional like a:

- ▶ family support worker
- ▶ therapist
- ▶ another professional that works with your child.

We can also organise an interpreter if you need one.



Delivering the NDIS in
your community

Not sure if the early childhood approach is right for your child?

If you're not sure if the early childhood approach is right for your child, you can talk to a professional about your options. You could talk to your GP, maternal and child health nurse, a therapist, childcare or kindergarten teacher or specialist about your child's needs. This might help you decide if the early childhood approach is right for your child.

Accessing our services

We are an early childhood partner with the NDIS. Our early childhood services support children younger than 7 who have delayed development or a disability.

We provide early childhood services in five areas across Melbourne, including North East Melbourne, Hume Moreland, Western Melbourne, Brimbank Melton and Bayside Peninsula areas.

We have worked with families from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds for over 60 years.

Visit ndis.bsl.org.au/early-childhood/about-us to find a BSL early childhood office in your area.

To find out more about the early childhood approach



Call us on
1300 BSL NDIS
(1300 275 634)



Email us at
BSL.CUSTOMERSERVICE@
ndis.gov.au



Visit ndis.bsl.org.au/early-childhood or ndis.gov.au/understanding/families-and-carers/early-childhood-approach



Need an interpreter

Call the Translating and Interpreter Service (TIS) on 131 450 or email or call us. Tell us your language and phone number. We will call you with an interpreter who speaks your language.



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