



National  
Disability  
Data Asset

## Early childhood supports

What we learned from our early research

December 2021

Easy Read report



## How to use this report



The National Disability Data Asset Team wrote this report. When you see the word 'we', it means the National Disability Data Asset Team.



We wrote this report in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold  
**Bold**

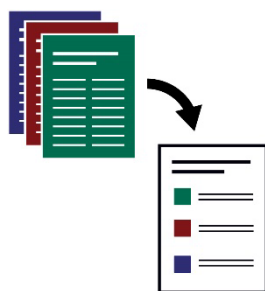
We have written some words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 15.



This Easy Read report is a summary of another report.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can ask for help to read this report. A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

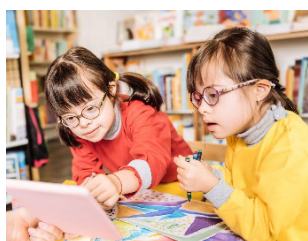
## What's in this report?

What is this report about?	4
What did we learn from our early research?	6
What does our early research mean?	13
Word list	15
Contact us	17

## What is this report about?



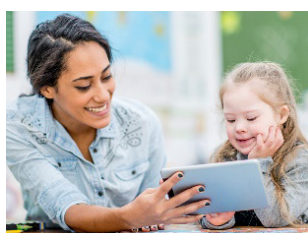
This report is about support for children with disability during their early childhood – before they start school.



This includes children with **developmental delay**.



When a child has a developmental delay, it means they don't grow or develop how other children their age do.



In this report, we just say children with disability.

But we also mean children with developmental delay.



When children with disability get supports during early childhood, they sometimes don't need as much support when they're older.



We want to know more about early childhood learning for children with disability.



We want to know more about early childhood services for children with disability

We want to know what results children with disability in New South Wales (NSW) get from using early childhood:



- learning
- supports and services.



We also want to look at what happens when children with disability go to school.

## What did we learn from our early research?

### Children with disability

**2.3 million**



From 2003 to 2019, around 2.3 million children were born in NSW.

**306,982**



306,982 of these children have a disability.

**3/10**



Nearly 3 in 10 of these children have more than one disability.

**1/10**



1 in 10 of the children have a developmental delay.



1/10



1 in 10 of these children have a disability that affects how they:

- move
- use their body.

1/2



Just over 1 in 2 of these children have an intellectual disability.

An intellectual disability affects how well someone can:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on their own.



1/5



Almost 1 in 5 of these children have a disability that affects how well they:

- see
- hear.

2/5



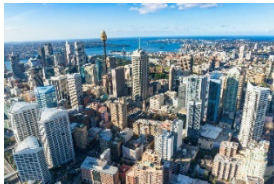
2 in 5 of these children have a **psychosocial disability**.



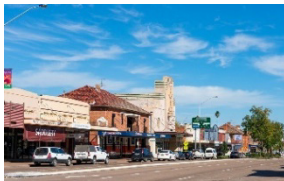
A psychosocial disability comes from a person's mental health issues.

### The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

We learnt that children could use supports even if they live:



- in the city



- near the city



- far from the city.



1/10



About 1 in 10 of children with disability had a plan for the **NDIS**.





The NDIS is a way to support people with disability around Australia.

**1/10**



About 1 in 10 of children with disability who are **culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)** got support from the NDIS.

CALD people:



- come from different countries or backgrounds

你好



- speak languages other than English.

**2/5**

English



Almost 2 in 5 children with disability who just speak English got support from the NDIS.

## Early childhood learning



Some children with disability use supports to take part in early childhood learning with other children.

**8/10**



About 8 in 10 children with disability took part in early childhood learning.

**6/10**



About 6 in 10 children with developmental delay took part in early childhood learning.

## School and learning



Children with disability had more days away from school than other children.



When a child is **suspended**, the school asks them to stay away from school for a few days.



About 1 in 10 children were suspended at least one time.



But children with disability had a higher chance of being suspended.

1 in 4 children with disability didn't reach the lowest level of learning in Australia for:

1/4



- reading
- writing
- maths.



Almost 1 in 3 children with development delay didn't reach the lowest level of learning in Australia.



We learnt how children with disability who go to preschool have a better chance of getting good results from their learning by Year 3.

### Child protection services



**Child protection** helps children stay safe.

It is run by the government.

1/4



1 in 4 children with disability experienced child protection.

1/3



Over 1 in 3 children with disability:

- couldn't live with their parents or carer
- might have lived in a home with a different family.

## What does our early research mean?



It is good for children with disability to take part in early childhood learning.



Children with disability can get good results from early childhood learning.



Children with disability need more support with:

- reading
- writing
- maths.



Not many children with disability who come from different backgrounds or speak English as a second language take part in the NDIS compared to children with disability who just speak English.



We need to understand what stops these children with disability joining the NDIS.

Families need more support to:



- stop children needing child protection



- keep families together.



## Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



### **Child protection**

Child protection helps children stay safe.

It is run by the government.



### **Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD)**

CALD people:

- come from different countries or backgrounds
- speak languages other than English.



### **Developmental delay**

When a child has a developmental delay, it means they don't grow or develop how other children their age do.

## Intellectual disability

An intellectual disability affects how well someone can:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on your own.



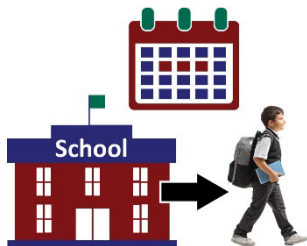
## National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The NDIS is a way to support people with disability around Australia.



## Psychosocial disability

A psychosocial disability comes from a person's mental health issues.



## Suspended

When a child is suspended, the school asks them to stay away from school for a few days.

## Contact us



If you have trouble hearing or speaking, you can contact the National Relay Service.



133 677



[www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)



You can also contact the Department of Social Services (DSS) for more information.



[NDDA@dss.gov.au](mailto:NDDA@dss.gov.au)



GPO Box 9820  
Canberra ACT 2601



[www.dss.gov.au/ndda](http://www.dss.gov.au/ndda)



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