



Introduction to the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Approach

25th May 2021

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Understanding the NDIS & ECEI



- The NDIS is a way of providing care and support to people with disability between the ages of 0-65 years.
- The Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) program is for children 0-6 years of age.
- The NDIS has partners in the community to work with participants and their families:
 - **Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Partners** help families and their children under 7 years old with a disability or developmental delay. Across Northern Sydney the Early Childhood Partner is Cerebral Palsy Alliance.
 - **Local Area Coordination (LAC) Partners** can help people over 7 years old to understand the NDIS and develop and use their NDIS plan. Across Northern Sydney the Early Childhood Partner is Uniting.



What is an Early Childhood Partner?



- Families of children under 7 years who are seeking NDIS supports are connected to an Early Childhood Partner.
- The Coordinators on our team are experienced in early childhood development and come from OT, SP, PT, Psychology, Social Work or Specialist Early Childhood Education backgrounds.
- ECEI Coordinators work with the child and family to understand their needs and provide appropriate support and intervention.

Who is eligible for ECEI?



Families who have concerns about their child's development should contact CPA.

- Diagnosis is **not** required and families can self-refer.
- **All families** can receive information and be connected to appropriate supports in their community.
- ECEI Coordinators can gather the necessary information to support access to the NDIS if appropriate.
- Short term supports may be provided where children with developmental concerns would not meet access for NDIS funding, these are provided by the ECEI team, are less than 12 months of supports and are provided in a keyworker transdisciplinary model.
- There is no cost to families to access any of these supports.
- More information regarding eligibility can be found on the NDIS website - <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/am-i-eligible>

Short Term Intervention



Short-term intervention can be provided by Coordinators from the ECEI team.

What it is:

- free to parents
- short term (case by case basis)
- for mild to mod presentation of a problem
- tailored for child and family's most immediate functional goals
- capacity building (in a keyworker model)
- working with families in holistic way
- working in child's natural settings
- referral and linkage to other supports and services family might need

What it is NOT:

- not an intensive therapy block
- not a funded package of NDIS supports
- not a structured generic program (tailored for child and family's most immediate goals)
- not for children with complex needs (i.e. where multidisciplinary approach is necessary)

Developmental delay for children under 6 years of age



What is developmental delay?

Developmental delay is when a child's development is not at the level expected for their age and has a significant effect on their ability to perform daily routines and activities. A child under 6 years of age with developmental delay may meet the NDIS early intervention requirements (NDIS Act 2013 s.9)

Developmental delay may include:

- How a child participates in self-care tasks
- How a child understands and uses language
- How a child thinks, learns and problem solves
- How a child uses their body to move



Evidence for developmental delay can come from those who know a child well including family/carers, health professionals, allied health professionals and educators.

Further information on NDIS website: <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/how-apply/information-gps-and-health-professionals/developmental-delay-children-under-6-years>

ECEI Workshops

ECEI Workshops – delivered by ECEI Early Childhood Coordinators:

Understanding Developmental Delay- Ensuring the best start for children (Professional development for Early Childhood Educators)

Supporting Positive Behaviour - introductory strategies and information for families.

Early Communication Parent Workshop – introductory strategies and information for families.

Supporting Young Children With Anxiety Parent Workshop - introductory strategies and information for families.

Early Intervention & the NDIS - information session

Using Your NDIS Plan - information session

Transition to School Pt 1 – School Options & the Enrolment Process (March)

Transition to School Pt 2 – Practical Strategies for Success (September)



- Workshops are open to all families (including those not accessing ECEI services) as well as community stakeholders and providers (often utilised as PD).
- All workshops and registrations through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/cerebral-palsy-alliance-ndis-information-sessions-6008977449>

Summary

- CPA's ECEI Program is a **free** support for children 0-6 years living in the Northern Sydney region.
- Children **do not require a diagnosis**, families may simply have concerns about their child's development.
- Children will benefit from this program even if they are not eligible for NDIS.



How to refer to ECEI

Cerebral Palsy Alliance is the ECEI Partner in Northern Sydney

Referrals can be made by phone or on our website

Contact:

📞 1300 888 378

✉ eceienquiries@cerebralpalsy.org.au

👉 www.cerebralpalsy.org.au



Delivering the NDIS in your community