

What to consider when choosing Child Care and Kindergarten

High-quality, inclusive early childhood services and care helps children to:

- grow and develop
- learn social skills
- get ready for school
- feel a sense of belonging
- have equal opportunities

Collaboration is Key

Strong partnerships between families, educators, and early childhood intervention professionals help children thrive.

- Ask to be part of any support planning or meetings
- Share goals, preferences, and strategies that work for your child
- Advocate for your child's needs — you know them best

Support and Funding

Here are key programs that can provide additional support in child care and kindergarten:

Inclusion Support Program (ISP) for Child Care

- Provides specialist inclusion advice to educators
- Funds additional educators
- Funds specialist equipment

State-Based Supports for Kindergarten

- Some states offer extra supports
- Contact your state education department for more information

NDIS – Early Childhood Approach (ECA)

- For children aged under 9 with disability or developmental concerns
- Offers therapy and early intervention supports
- No diagnosis needed to get started

Child Care Subsidy (CCS)

- Helps pay for childcare
- Extra support (ACCS) for eligible children

Ask your child care or kindergarten service about how to apply for these funded supports.

Your Child's Right to Inclusion

Every child has the right to access child care and kindergarten. These services cannot refuse enrolment just because a child has a disability or extra needs.

Key Standards:

- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) – services must make reasonable adjustments so children can participate.
- National Quality Framework (NQF) – quality standards promote inclusion and equity.
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) – supports inclusive education at all levels.



What to look for

Look for respectful attitudes, flexibility, and a strong focus on your child's strengths.

Questions you can ask

About support

- How do you support children with disabilities?
- Are support plans developed in collaboration with parents and therapists?
- Is there access to additional support workers?
- Can my child's therapist or key worker visit?

About the environment

- Is the environment physically accessible?
- Are there quiet areas or sensory-friendly spaces?

About communication

- How do you communicate with families?
- Will I get regular updates?
- Will I be part of planning?



Summary Checklist

- Visit services and ask questions about inclusion
- Involve your child's support team in planning
- Apply for funding (ISP, ECA, CCS, ACCS)
- Choose a service that sees your child's strengths
- Stay involved — you're a vital part of the team