

ECIA NSW POSITION STATEMENT

Early Childhood Intervention

Early Childhood Intervention Australia (NSW Chapter) is the peak organisation in NSW for professionals who support young children with additional needs and their families. ECIA NSW is committed to the principles of quality early childhood intervention.

Early childhood intervention provides support for infants and young children who have developmental delays or disabilities, their families or carers and communities, in order to promote the child's development and to facilitate successful inclusion.

Early childhood intervention services may be provided to children from birth to school entry (and their families or carers) and aim to provide:

- support and information for families/carers
- education, therapy and health services for children
- support for early childhood services (such as child care, family day care, and pre-schools) to help facilitate successful inclusion
- support for the child's participation in everyday activities in their own environment and within the community.

ECIA NSW believes that quality early childhood intervention is holistic, inclusive and is delivered using a whole family approach. Successful practices recognise that families play a fundamental and crucially important role in their child's learning and overall development.

ECIA NSW endorses early childhood intervention services that demonstrate a family-centred approach by:

- Working in partnership with families
- Tailoring services to each family's priorities and circumstances
- Helping each family build on its strengths and develop new skills
- Promoting family well-being, resilience and access to natural supports
- Building family capacity to provide learning experiences and opportunities to promote their child's development
- Acknowledging and respecting each families' social, cultural and linguistic background

- Providing families with the support, knowledge and skills to meet the needs of their child and family
- Promoting children's development and their contribution to their community
- Utilising a collaborative team approach and following the principles of transdisciplinary practice.

A stronger focus on prevention and timely intervention for infants and young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families is advocated by ECIA NSW.

Quality early childhood intervention, delivered at the earliest possible time, can impact significantly on a child's learning and development, as well as having a positive outcome on family functioning. Research has consistently indicated that the quality of children's experiences in the first three years of their life affect physical and social development, the ability to learn and the capacity to regulate emotions. It has ethical, social and economic advantages for the wider community, as well its positive and long-lasting effects on children's and families' lives.

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ECIA (NSW Chapter): www.ecia-nsw.org.au