

## ECIA NSW POSITION STATEMENT

### INCLUSION

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 family partnership based upon collaborative planning that reflects each family's individual strengths, needs and priorities. It respects the family's right to make decisions and to take responsibility for directing their own lives.

Inclusion embraces and values the diversity of individual abilities and complies with Article 23 from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (see attached). It fosters a sense of belonging and general well-being by providing opportunities to freely explore positive learning environments that build on strengths. It offers choices to children, as they grow, which encourage and foster their learning potential; and it enables them to participate independently in community life, while developing confidence and a strong sense of self.

An inclusive environment is holistic by nature and recognises the unique contribution each child and their family make to the richness of a diverse community. It creates an atmosphere of tolerance and nurtures community connectedness in ways that influence positive relationships and build social supports.

ECIA NSW believes that an inclusive early childhood learning environment is one that responds positively to the uniqueness of each individual child and their family. This involves the development and implementation of strategies to meet individual needs in areas including communication, mobility, socialisation and functional skills, which increase the child's capacity to engage in and contribute to all aspects of their daily life.

ECIA NSW endorses practices that promote, encourage and support inclusion and which lay the foundation for each child's successful participation within a diverse community.

*Adopted November 2008*

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ECIA (NSW Chapter): [www.ecia-nsw.org.au](http://www.ecia-nsw.org.au)

## ***United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child***

### ***Article 23***

1. States Parties recognize that a mentally or physically disabled child should enjoy a full and decent life, in conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community.

2. States Parties recognize the right of the disabled child to special care and shall encourage and ensure the extension, subject to available resources, to the eligible child and those responsible for his or her care, of assistance for which application is made and which is appropriate to the child's condition and to the circumstances of the parents or others caring for the child.

3. Recognizing the special needs of a disabled child, assistance extended in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article shall be provided free of charge, whenever possible, taking into account the financial resources of the parents or others caring for the child, and shall be designed to ensure that the disabled child has effective access to and receives education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, preparation for employment and recreation opportunities in a manner conducive to the child's achieving the fullest possible social integration and individual development, including his or her cultural and spiritual development

4. States Parties shall promote, in the spirit of international cooperation, the exchange of appropriate information in the field of preventive health care and of medical, psychological and functional treatment of disabled children, including dissemination of and access to information concerning methods of rehabilitation, education and vocational services, with the aim of enabling States Parties to improve their capabilities and skills and to widen their experience in these areas. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.