

Disability Standards for Education 2020 Review



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

Children with disability in early childhood education and care

How to have your say

An Easy Read guide



How to use this discussion paper



The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) wrote this discussion paper. When you see the word 'we', it means the department.



We have written this discussion paper in an easy to read way. We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold Not 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 20.



This Easy Read discussion paper is a summary of another document. This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website at www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/early_childhood



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

What's in this discussion paper?

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What is this discussion paper about?



This discussion paper is about children with disability in early childhood education and care.

Early childhood education and care may be provided through:



- preschools, including kindergartens
- a child care service.

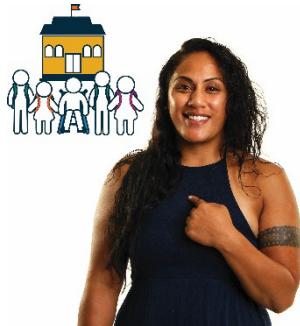
Early childhood education and care helps children learn, grow and play:



- in a safe place
- with other children.



This includes children with disability.



We want to find out about your experience with early childhood education and care.



There are questions for you to think about on page 13.

We talk about the ideas in two laws.

Those laws are the:



- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Disability Standards for Education 2005.*

What is the Disability Discrimination Act 1992?



The *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the Act) says it's against the law for someone to treat you badly because you are different.



The Act makes sure people with disability have the same **rights** as people without disability.



Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



The Act protects people with disability when they use a service, including early childhood education and care.



The Act helps make sure children with disability can take part in early childhood education and care in the same way as children without disability.



All early childhood education and care services must follow what the Act says.



They must also make changes in their service if needed so children with disability can take part.

What are the Disability Standards for Education?

The *Disability Standards for Education 2005* make sure students with disability can take part in:



- education



- training.



We also call them the Standards.



The Standards make sure education providers follow the Act.



At the moment the Standards cover preschools, including kindergartens.



They don't include child care providers.



The law says we must look closely at the Standards every 5 years.

We call this a review.

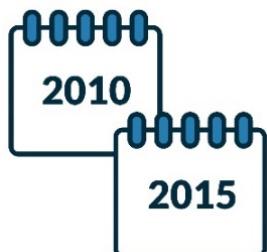
We review the Standards so we can:



- check if they are working well



- find ways to make them better.



We reviewed the Standards in 2010 and 2015.



In these reviews, people said we should think about adding child care services to the Standards.

What do we want to find out?

As part of this year's review, we want to find out how much people know about the DDA.

We want to hear from:



- families



- early childhood educators



- early childhood education and care providers.

We want to find out how well they understand:



- the Act



- the rules



- what their rights are



- the things they must do.

What you tell us will help us work out how to:



- support children with disability so they can take part in early childhood education and care



- make sure early childhood education and care providers understand the things they must do



- help parents and carers understand their child's rights.

Questions to think about



We want to know what taking part in early childhood education and care is like for your child.



We want to know how much you know about:

- your rights
- your child's rights.



We have some questions for you to think about on the following pages.

What has taking part in early childhood education and care been like for your child?



What happened when you signed your child up for early childhood education and care?



Do early childhood education and care providers know how to include children with disability?



Have you and your child had the support you need to take part in early childhood education and care?



Do early childhood education and care providers do enough to stop children with disability and their families being:

- treated badly?
- made to feel bad?



Have you made a **complaint** about an early childhood education and care provider?



A complaint is when you tell someone about:

- something that has gone wrong
- a problem you want fixed.



How did your early childhood education and care provider try to fix the problem?



What happened when your child was ready to start school?



Did the early childhood education and care provider share information about your child with the school?

What other things have affected your child's early childhood education and care?

Other things can affect children with disability when taking part in early childhood education and care, such as:



- their age
- the language they speak at home
- their **culture**.



Your culture is:

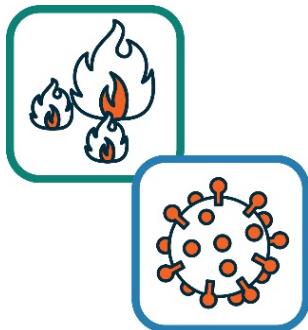
- your way of life
- the way you think or act because of the way you grew up.



Did your early childhood education and care provider show respect for your culture?



Are there other things that have affected your child's early childhood education and care?



Has a big event like bushfires or coronavirus (COVID-19) made it harder for your child to take part in early childhood education and care?

What do you know about your child's rights?



Do you know about the Disability Discrimination Act and what it does?



How could we help more people find out about the Act?



Do you know about your child's rights to take part in early childhood education and care?



How could we help you understand your child's rights and the Act better?

How can you have your say as part of the review?



You can have your say in different ways.



You can answer our questions online at
[www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/
early_childhood](http://www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/early_childhood)



You can also answer the questions:

- in writing
- as a video
- as an audio recording.



You can submit these online at
[www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/
early_childhood](http://www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/early_childhood)



Or by emailing it to engage@thesocialdeck.com

Other ways to get involved



You can take part in events where you can have your say about your experience in early childhood education and care.



You can sign up to take part in any of the following activities on the Disability Standards Review website.

[www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/
early_childhood](http://www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/early_childhood)



You can take part in a **webinar**.

A webinar is a presentation or workshop done online using video.

The early childhood webinar will be held on 27 August 2020.



You can join a **focus group**.

A focus group is when a group of people are asked questions about:

- their experiences
- what they think.

You can take part in an **interview**.



An interview is when someone asks you questions to find out about your experiences and what you think.



All the ways you can take part will be **accessible**.



When something is accessible, everyone can use it.



If you want to take part, we will send you more information before our meeting.



This means you have time to think about:

- our questions
- your answers.



Our review ends on 25 September 2020.

Word list



Accessible

When something is accessible, everyone can use it.



Complaint

A complaint is when you tell someone about:

- something that has gone wrong
- a problem you want fixed.



Culture

Your culture is:

- your way of life
- the way you think or act because of the way you grew up.



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May be provided through:

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Focus group



A focus group is when a group of people are asked questions about their experiences and what they think.

Interview



An interview is when someone asks you questions to find out about your experiences and what you think.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everybody should be treated fairly.



Webinar

A webinar is a presentation or workshop done online using video.

Contact us

You can send us an email to find out more about:



- our review
- this discussion paper.



DisabilityStrategy@dese.gov.au



You can phone or send an email to The Social Deck to find out more how you can take part in the review.



0491 617 118



engage@thesocialdeck.com



[www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/
early_childhood](http://www.disabilitystandardsreview.education.gov.au/early_childhood)



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