

Early Years
COMMUNITY
of Practice

Presenter

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We
ACKNOWLEDGE

the traditional owners of the land where we live and work. We pay our respects to the elders past and present and extend our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders across the nation.



What is the

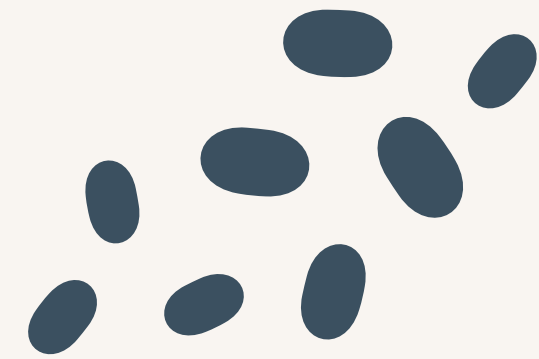
Early Years Community of Practice?

- It is an opportunity to create connections among people across organisational and sector boundaries,
- Brings practitioners together on a regular basis to share understanding and knowledge of the current issues relating to the early years,
- It aims to blend individual and collective learning through the development of a shared practice
- Enables practitioners to take collective responsibility for managing the knowledge they need
- And in achieving this, improving the way we support children and families in the ACT

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

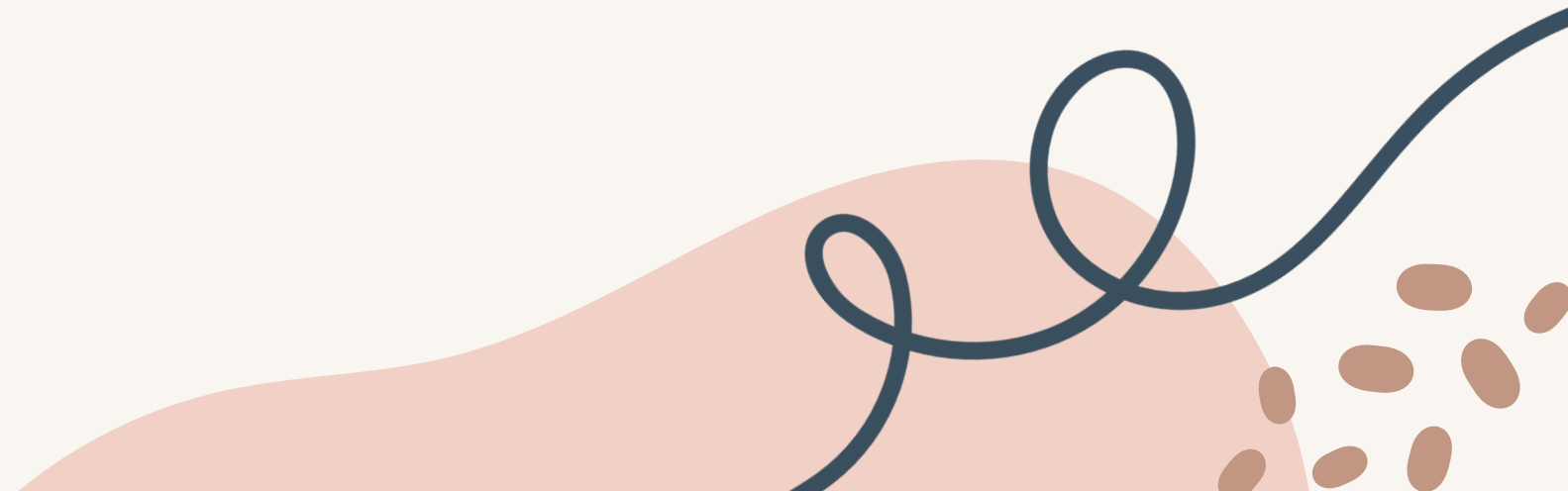
- Developmental milestones from birth to five years
 - What is developmental delay and disability?
- Strategies to build stronger relationships with families
- Tips to effectively communicate concerns with families
 - Where to seek support





DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES FROM birth to five years

- Physical development
- Social development
- Emotional development
- Cognitive development
- Language development






Understanding

DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY

Developmental delay is a term used to describe a delay in a child's development.

It means that a child finds it harder to do everyday things that other children their age can do, for example dress themselves, talk or walk.

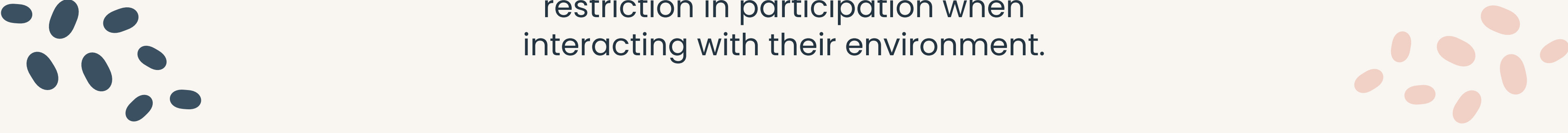




Understanding **DISABILITY**

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) defines Disability as: Total or partial loss of the person's bodily or mental functions (The Disability Act 1992).

The Disability Act (1992) describes a person's impairment of body or function, a limitation in activities or a restriction in participation when interacting with their environment.





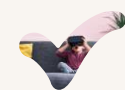
Strategies TO BUILD STRONGER relationships with families



value each other's knowledge of each child



value each other's roles in each child's life



trust each other



communicate freely and respectfully with each other



share insights and perspectives about each child and
engage in shared decision making.

Effective **COMMUNICATION**

of concerns with families

- Speak in a clear and considerate way.
- Find and share positives about the child.
- Be open and honest.
- Give accurate information about observations.
- Think before you speak.
- Ask for parent's input.
- Let parents make informed decisions.
- Use a problem-solving approach:
 - identifying the problem.
 - brainstorming as many solutions as possible.
 - jointly evaluating the pros and cons.
 - deciding on a solution to try.
 - putting the solution into action.
 - reviewing the solution after an agreed period of time





Common

Barriers for families

- Readiness
- Capacity
- Cost
- Wait times
- Time and competing priorities
- Residency status and citizenship

Strategies to respond:

- Listen
- Be respectful
- Educate yourself about programs, initiatives and supports available in the community that families can engage with.

Where **TO SEEK SUPPORT**

- Ask your supervisor or leadership team for advice
- Contact the Inclusion Agency for advice and support:
<https://inclusionagencycynswact.org.au/>
- Make a referral to EACH with parent/carer consent:

1300 003 224 or [EACH Online Referral Form](#)



Do you have concerns about a child's development?

Observe the Child

Make some observations of the child's play, communication and behaviours. Consider completing a Developmental Milestones checklist to go alongside your observations.

Remember:

A child under 6 years does not need a diagnosis to receive supports from EACH

Talk with the parents or carers

Talk with parents or carers about your observations and concerns. Ask the family if they have noticed anything about their child's development. Remember the family know their child best.

About EACH

When the family is ready, share information about EACH. EACH can support a family or carer to understand the child's needs and recommend what early connections are best for the child.
<https://www.each.com.au/service/early-childhood-early-intervention>

What is a Developmental Concern?

Developmental Concerns are concerns about a child's development, compared with other children their age. This may include how they:

- Play and move around;
- Do things to take care of themselves;
- Socialise with other children;
- Communicate what they want.

Refer to EACH

With consent from the family refer to EACH, or support them to self refer:

<https://each.snapforms.com.au/form/ndis-referral-to-early-childhood-partners>

Resources:

- Early Childhood Approach: EACH Resources for families and communities
<https://www.each.com.au/ecei-resources-for-families/>
- A potential observation tool you could use can be found BeYou website:
<https://www.beyou.edu.au/resources/betis-observation-tool>
- The Australian Parenting Website supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/>
- The Developmental Milestones and the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards
https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2015/developmental-milestones.pdf
- THRIVARY app provides guidance, information and learning on all things early childhood development and early intervention (0-8yrs), <https://thrivary.com.au/>

EACH is the NDIS Early Childhood Partner in ACT, Greater Ipswich, South West Sydney and Southern NSW. We deliver the Early Childhood Approach for children aged 0-6 years with a disability or developmental delay. We work together with parents, carers, and families to support children to have the best possible start in life.

each



For more
INFORMATION

on raising children, looking after yourself and for simple ideas and tips go to

belconnenvillage.com.au/community-of-practice/

What's next



- Village will be hosting a **website page** with
 - ✓ resources,
 - ✓ presentations, and
 - ✓ information
- an **email** will be sent out following each CoP with the updated link to the page.

Thank you!

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