

# Early years services

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Your child's early years are the foundation for future health, learning, development and wellbeing. They are critically important and influence your child for life.

## Early Childhood Services

Victoria has a range of services available to assist you and your child from birth through to adulthood. Children are provided with high-quality early childhood programs and a smooth transition to the school system and beyond.

The Victorian Government supports the health, development, wellbeing and learning of your child by funding services such as the Maternal and Child Health Service, kindergarten programs, supported playgroups and early childhood intervention services. These services are operated by a range of local government,



community and private organisations. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development also regulates early education and care services in Victoria.

## Early Childhood Intervention Services

Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) support children with a disability or developmental delay from birth to school entry and their families. ECIS provides special education, therapy, counselling, service planning and coordination, assistance and support to access services such as kindergarten and child care.

Services are tailored to meet the individual needs of the child and focused on supporting the child in their natural environments and in their everyday experiences and activities. These services are funded through the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and provided by Specialist Children's services teams and Early Childhood Intervention agencies.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/>

The overall aim of these services is to provide parents and families with the knowledge, skills and support to meet the needs of their child and to optimise the child's development and ability to participate in family and community life. All services are provided using a family-centred approach, recognising the importance of working in partnership with the family.

You may find the booklet *Making a Start: Building support for your child and family* a help in understanding more about early childhood intervention and making informed choices that are right for you.

<http://www.eciavic.org.au/documents/item/573>