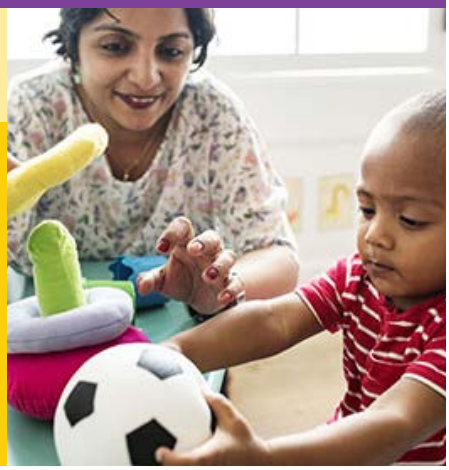
Advocating for children with disability

Early Years fact sheet

Professional development for early childhood educators



Learning how to support children with additional needs or disability in early childhood settings helps to ensure that all children in your care are supported and included.

There are many resources and training opportunities available for early childhood educators in Victoria.

Disability Standards for Education

The Disability Standards for Education set out the rights of students with disability, including:

- Not discriminating against students with disability
- The reasonable adjustments that Australian law requires education providers to make for students with disability
- How to ensure reasonable adjustments are fair to individual students with disability
- Working together with the student, their family and/or other associates

Learn more about the Disability Standards for Education
https://www.nccd.edu.au/resources-and-tools/professional-learning/format/disability-standards-education-elearning-ecec-and-oshc-226

Accurate and current information on disabilities and medical conditions

It's important for educators to maintain up-to-date information about different disabilities and medical conditions to ensure all students are supported appropriately. There are several resources available to help with this.

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) fact sheets

RCH Melbourne has developed Kids Health Info fact sheets to increase understanding of a child's medical condition and/or treatment. All medical conditions and disabilities are listed alphabetically on the website linking to the relevant fact sheets.

Kids Health Info fact sheets
https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets

Disability-specific learning opportunities

AllPlay Learn

AllPlay Learn provides practical online information and courses to help create

inclusive education environments for children with disability. The educators' section on the AllPlay Learn website includes information about different disabilities, strategies to help children with developmental challenges, and resources for early childhood educators. AllPlay Learn was developed by Deakin University in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education.

Early Childhood Education and Care Settings | AllPlay Learn
https://allplaylearn.org.au/early

Amaze
Amaze offers educator training to support autistic students within their educational setting. Workshops can be tailored to your needs, with consultative services, links and assistance upon course completion.

Amaze training
https://www.amaze.org.au/training

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
OnLineTraining works with school sectors across Australia to create courses that support children and young people with special educational needs. They offer a range of free e-learning courses, including one on ADHD.

Free e-learning courses – ADHD
https://aus.oltinternational.net/free-parents-courses

Autism Awareness Australia
'Navigating Autism: The Early Years' empowers early childhood educators to confidently and effectively support autistic children and their parents and carers. Designed with the help of parents, professionals, and other educators, it contains free, evidence-based information and resources that can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

Navigating Autism
https://navigating-autism.teachable.com/p/navigating-autism-the-early-years

Centre for Community Child Health – Royal Children's Hospital
The Centre for Community Child Health supports the health and wellbeing of children aged 0 to 8. They offer a range of online professional development and training courses, including one on how to build and sustain helpful relationships with parents.

Centre for Community Child Health training
https://www.rch.org.au/ccch/training-dev

Cerebral Palsy Education Centre (CPEC)
CPEC provides professional learning for educators of students with cerebral palsy, offering online learning modules and workshops.

CPEC training
https://cpec.org.au/services/onsite-training

Early Childhood Australia
Early Childhood Australia is the peak early childhood advocacy organisation advocating for quality outcomes in early childhood settings. They have a well-established Learning Hub offering a variety of courses including how to support children with Autism and children with behaviour support needs.

Early Childhood Australia Learning Hub
https://learninghub.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

Early Childhood Hub
Professional development courses and supports for early childhood professionals in Victoria
https://www.earlychildhoodhub.vic.gov.au/

Emerging Minds
Emerging Minds works to support the mental health and wellbeing of infants, children, adolescents and their families. They offer free online courses and resources that cover child development, child mental health and disability, trauma, loss and grief.

Emerging Minds
https://learning.emergingminds.com.au

Victorian Department of Education
The Victorian Department of Education offers a free course for early years professionals called Early Childhood Inclusion for Children with Disability available through their eLearning Portal.

Early Childhood Inclusion for Children with Disability eLearning Portal
https://earlychildhoodinclusion.tech-savvy.com.au

Yellow Ladybugs
Yellow Ladybugs has video resources on supporting autistic girls in early childhood education.

Autistic Girls in Early Childhood - YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyjdYzK94whABiFJK3kp7WbbOsl1C0174

Communication resources and equipment

Specialist Equipment Library
Yooralla's Specialist Equipment Library operates as part of the Inclusion Support Program. The library loans a variety of equipment not usually found in child care settings to help enable greater inclusion. Examples include portable ramps, standing frames, hoists, slings, change tables, specialised furniture, communication cards and inclusion toys.

Special Equipment Library
https://www.yooralla.com.au/specialist-equipment-library

Vision Australia
Families and educators can join the Vision Australia Feelix Children's Library to borrow special braille and tactile storybook kits.

Feelix Children's Library
https://www.visionaustralia.org/services/library/feelix-childrens-library

Additional support

Inclusion Support Program
The Inclusion Support Program is a nationally funded program to identify and address barriers to inclusion in child care settings. Information about eligibility and supports is available in the Inclusion Support Guidelines.

Inclusion Support Portal
https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/providers/extra-support/inclusion-support-program/inclusion-support-portal

The Victorian Inclusion Agency can also assist.

Victorian Inclusion Agency | Access Inclusion Support
https://www.viac.com.au

Kindergarten Inclusion Support (KIS)
KIS is funded by the Victorian Department of Education specifically for kindergartens. Available supports include specialist training and consultancy, minor building modifications and additional staff (usually kindergarten assistants).

There are two types of programs:

- Disability – for children with disability or developmental delay and high support needs), and
- Complex medical needs – for children with complex medical needs and high levels of health care support but who do not have disability

Kindergarten inclusion for children with disabilities
https://www.vic.gov.au/kindergarten-inclusion-children-disabilities

Pre-School Field Officer Program (PSFO)
The PSFO service supports the participation of children with additional needs in kindergarten programs. This includes children enrolled in four-year-old, three-year-old kindergarten, and early start kindergarten.

Preschool Field Officer program | vic.gov.au
https://www.vic.gov.au/preschool-field-officer-program

School Readiness Funding Menu

The School Readiness Funding Menu by the Victorian Department of Education includes detailed information about how to apply for School Readiness Funding. It covers these priority areas of communication (language development), wellbeing (social and emotional), access and inclusion.

School Readiness Funding menu
https://www.vic.gov.au/school-readiness-funding-menu-search

Free services for families

- **Support Line**
- **Workshops**
- **Information**
- **Peer support**