



February 2025

Hi ,

We know how important it is for children with disability to benefit from early childhood education. That's why we are so excited to offer our brand-new workshop for families: Positive Start to Early Learning.

This free online workshop is for parents of children with disability or developmental delay who are about to, or have just started childcare or kindergarten. It covers how funding works, practical support, and working with your child's educators and teachers.

[Book your spot today](#)

Karen Dimmock, CEO



Childcare and kindergarten are important parts of young children's lives, providing opportunities to learn, play, and make friends. Positive Start to Early Learning will give you the information and skills to work in partnership with your child's educators to better support them on their learning journey.

This is a brand-new, FREE 90-minute online workshop for families of children with developmental delay or disability

aged 0-5.

Topics include:

- How funding works
- Working in partnership with early childhood educators
- Practical support at childcare and kindergarten

[Register now](#)



Finding mental health support for your child

Dealing with mental health issues and disability can be challenging for both you and your child. Sometimes, symptoms of anxiety and depression are overlooked in children with disability. It's important to trust your instincts and seek assistance if your child experiences unexplained mood or behavioural changes.

Our free guide gives practical information on the different types of support that are available.

[Find out more](#)




Association for
Children with a
Disability

Have your say
Teachers who are
parents of children
with disability

We want to hear from you

Education is the number one issue families raise with ACD and we would love to hear from **parents of children with disability who are also teachers.**

This will be an opportunity for you to tell us what's working and to discover your ideas for change.

Teachers and educators from early childhood settings and schools who are also parents of children with disability are welcome. We will not ask for, nor record your place of work.

Register today and take the opportunity to share your insights as a parent.

[Register today](#)



Professional development for educators

Sharing resources with your child's educator is a great way to help them create a supportive environment for your child, whether it's in school, kindergarten, or childcare.

ACD has developed two **free guides** you can share. They have practical information on topics such as different disabilities, the rights of students with disability in education, and disability-specific learning opportunities.

[Professional development for early childhood educators](#)

[Professional development for teachers](#)

Early Childhood Intervention Survey

Go into the draw to win a \$200 Coles voucher by completing a 5-10 minute survey about the information that was helpful to you when your child started early childhood intervention.

We want to hear from you if your child aged 0 to 12 has participated in early childhood intervention, including speech therapy or occupational therapy to help promote your child's development.

This survey is part of the review of best practice in early childhood intervention, undertaken by a consortium led by the University of Melbourne, and funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Hearing from families is an important part of the review, which will produce a new best practice framework, resources, and tools.

[Take the survey](#)



Accessible parking permits

Parking as close as possible to your destination can be helpful when you have children with disability.

An Accessible Parking Permit allows you to use specially marked parking spaces. To be eligible for a permit, you or your family member must have:

- A significant mobility impairment, OR
- An acute or chronic medical condition where walking up to 100 meters requires stopping several times, OR

- A cognitive, behavioural, or neurological impairment, that prevents safe movement on their own.

You'll also need a functional assessment from a GP or an occupational therapist to complete the application.

[Learn more](#)

ACD's Support Line is here to help

Does your child with developmental delay or disability need more help at childcare or kindergarten? Call the ACD Support Line today.

This is a free telephone advocacy service for all Victorian families raising children with developmental delay and disability. No diagnosis is needed to use our service.

We can help you to understand:

- Your child's rights in education
- What support is available at childcare and kindergarten
- How funding works

The Support Line is open Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm, and interpreters are available.

Call [03 9880 7000](tel:0398807000) or [1800 654 013](tel:1800654013) (regional callers).

Connect with others

Getting to know other families raising children with disability can be a valuable source of emotional support and a great way to see how others approach challenges.

There are many ways to connect with other families, such as meeting in person, connecting online, or through a disability-specific group.

We've listed groups and networks to help you make a start and to choose what works best for you and your family.

[Read our guide](#)



Sensory sessions at Legoland Discovery Centre

Sensory sessions have kicked off again at Legoland Discovery Centre at Chadstone Shopping Centre this February and will continue throughout the year. Tickets are only \$10 each, and the next session is on Friday 21 March.

Special accommodations include:

- Reduction of sound and light levels in certain areas
- Quiet spaces
- A reduced Centre capacity
- Specially trained staff

[Plan your visit](#)

Best wishes

The ACD team

Stay connected

Follow us on





Association for
Children with a
Disability

03 9880 7000 | 1800 654 013 (regional)
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ACD acknowledges the traditional owners of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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