



Supports for your child who is deaf or hard of hearing

Building your family's knowledge and skills

Easy Read version



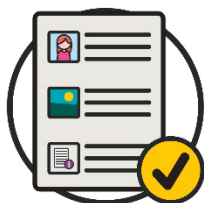
ndis

[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

How to use this guide



The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) wrote this guide. When you see the word 'we', it means the NDIA.



We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold
Not bold

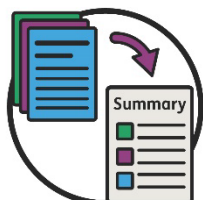
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

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 is an Easy Read summary of another guide.



You can find the other guide on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/family-knowledge



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What's in this guide?

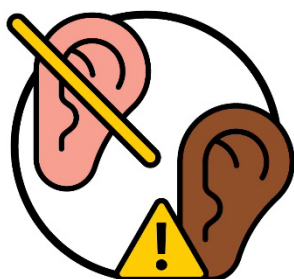
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Who are these guides for?

These guides are for families of children who are:



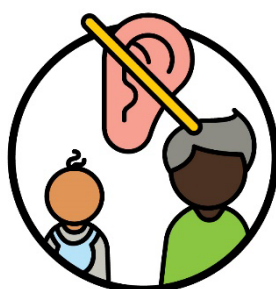
- younger than 7 years old



- deaf or hard of hearing.



Children are deaf or hard of hearing if they can't hear things around them.



They might be born deaf or hard of hearing.
Or they might become deaf or hard of hearing later in life.



Some children also have hearing loss.

Hearing loss is when your child can only hear some things around them.

Children can have hearing loss in:



- one ear



- both ears.

Why is building knowledge and skills important?



You might need to learn new things once you find out your child is deaf or hard of hearing.



Building knowledge and skills early will help when you make decisions for your child.

It will help you know you're making the right decision.

Building knowledge and skills early also helps:



- parents feel less stressed



- children as they learn and grow.



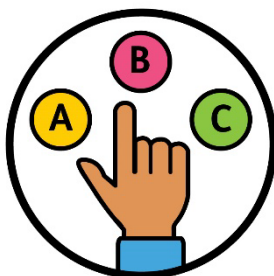
There are supports that can help your family build knowledge and skills.

They can also help carers.

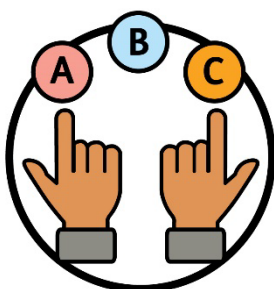
What supports can you get?



There are many ways you can build your family's knowledge and skills.



You might choose to only use one type of support.



Or you might use more than one type of support.

Support from other families



You can get support from other families who have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.



You can also get support from adults who are deaf or hard of hearing.

These adults would know what it's like for your child.

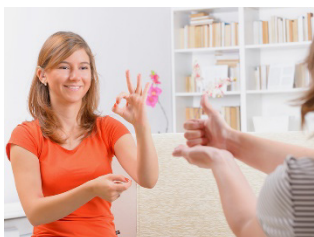
These people can:



- support you with how you feel



- connect you to others who understand your situation



- practise new skills with you



- support you to feel good about who you are or who your child is.

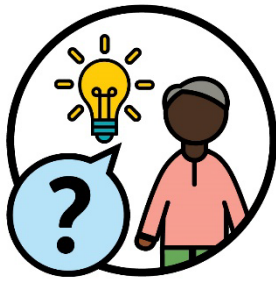
They can also:



- show you that you're not alone



- give day-to-day support, like doing tasks for you or listening to how you feel



- help you learn by answering your questions.

Support from your community



You can also get support from your community.

For example, you can get support from:



- friends and other people in your family



- community groups



- religious groups



- play groups.

Your community can support you to:



- connect with people and make friends

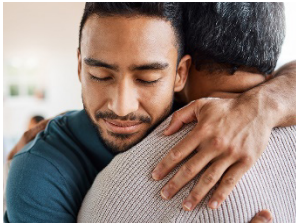


- practise new skills



- feel good about who you are or who your child is.

Your community can also:



- show you that you're not alone



- give day-to-day support, like doing tasks for you or listening to how you feel



- give you and your family advice.

Support from professionals



You might need extra support to build knowledge and skills.

You can get support from a professional.

It's a professional's job to support your child and your family.

Your child can get support from a health professional, like:



- an **audiologist** – someone who supports people with how they hear



- a **speech pathologist** – someone who helps people learn how to communicate



- a mental health professional.

You can also get support from:



- teachers who work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing.



- community organisations



- your doctor.



Professionals can give you the right answers to your questions.

They can tell you what to expect as your child grows.



They can also help you create plans and learn new skills to communicate with your child.

Professionals can help your family:



- connect with each other



- create a home for a deaf or hard of hearing child to grow up in



- understand the choices you have



- create plans to manage how you feel.

Professionals can also help you:



- manage your stress
- improve your wellbeing.

This includes supporting you to think about things in a positive way.



Professionals can also connect you with other supports if you need them.

Who can you talk to?



You can talk to people you know and trust.

They can help you find out about ways to build your family's knowledge and skills.



You can talk to an **early childhood partner** about these supports.

They're someone who supports children with disability and their families



You can also talk to a **provider**.

Providers support other people by delivering a service.



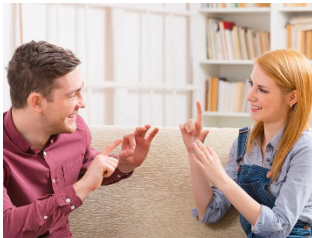
You can learn more about questions to ask providers on our website.

www.ndis.gov.au/what-provider



You can talk to people who work with young children.

For example, your child's doctor.



You can talk to organisations who support:

- people who are deaf or hard of hearing
- their families.



You can also talk to your own:

- friends
- family.

More information

For more information about this guide, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

www.ndis.gov.au



You can call us.

1800 800 110



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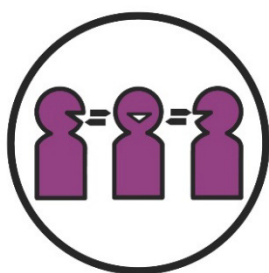
Support to talk to us



You can talk to us online using our webchat feature at the top of our website.

www.ndis.gov.au

If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)

131 450

If you have a speech or hearing impairment, you can call:



TTY

1800 555 677



Speak and Listen

1800 555 727



National Relay Service

133 677

www.relayservice.gov.au

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Audiologist

An audiologist is someone who supports people with how they hear.



Early childhood partners

Early childhood partners support children with disability and their families.



Funding

Funding is money that people receive from the government for disability support.



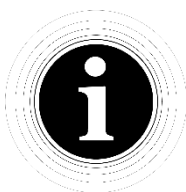
Providers

Providers support other people by delivering a service.



Speech pathologist

A speech pathologist is someone who helps people learn how to communicate.



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