



Assistive technology supports for your child

Information about our guides

Easy Read version



ndis

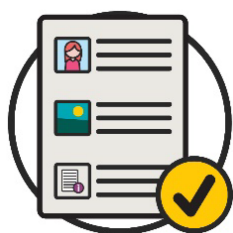
[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

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

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

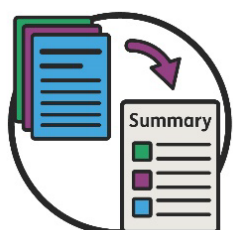
Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 34.



This is an Easy Read summary of another guide.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other guide on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/supporting-your-child-assistive-technology



You can ask for help to read this guide.

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



This is a long document.



You don't need to read it all at once.

You can take your time.

What's in this guide?

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About assistive technology



Assistive technology can:

- make it easier for your child to do things
- keep your child safe.

Assistive technology might be:



- an aid or piece of equipment, like a wheelchair



- a system to use, like a screen reader.

Your child can use assistive technology to:



- communicate



- move around.



Your child can also use assistive technology to do more things on their own.



This means they might need less support from other carers.



You can find out more about assistive technology on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/assistive-technology

About these guides

We wrote 3 guides about assistive technology your child can use to:



- help them communicate



- support how they move around



- support them at home and in the community.

Who these guides are for



These guides are for families and carers of children with **developmental delay**.



When a child has developmental delay, they might take longer to develop new skills than other children their age.



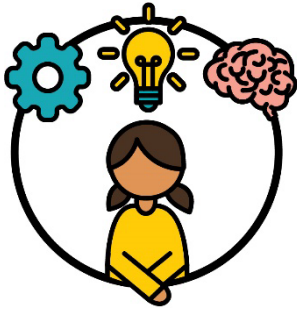
This means they may need extra help to do everyday things.



The guides are also for families and carers of children with **physical disability**.



A physical disability affects how someone moves and uses their body.



The guides are also for families and carers of children with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how children:



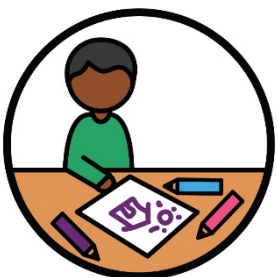
- learn new things



- solve problems



- communicate

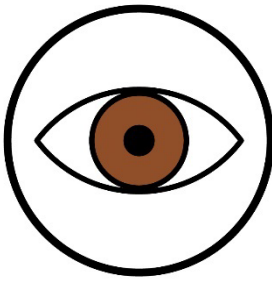


- do things on their own.



These guides are also for families and carers of children with **sensory disability**.

A sensory disability affects a child's senses, like their:

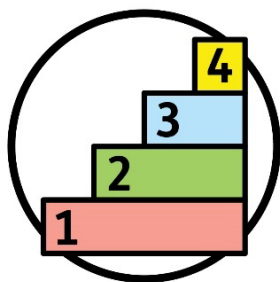


- sight



- hearing.

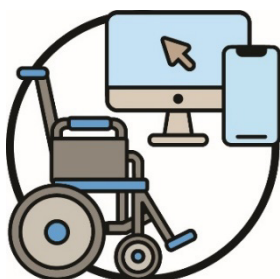
How you can use the guides



We have 4 steps to help you use these guides.



1. Read the information in this guide.



This will help you learn about the types of assistive technology your child can use.



2. Think about what parts of the guide are important for your family.



You can think about goals you have for your child.



3. Use the guides when you have meetings about your child's supports.

This includes meetings with your child's myNDIS contact, like their:



- **early childhood partner** – someone who supports children with disability and their families



- **NDIA planner** – someone who makes and updates NDIS plans.



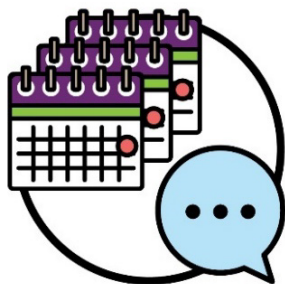
It also includes meetings with your child's **providers**.



Providers support people who take part in the NDIS by delivering a service.



4. Talk to your providers about the supports your child gets.



You should have these conversations often.

This will help you understand how your child's supports are helping them.



Your providers should also write you reports.

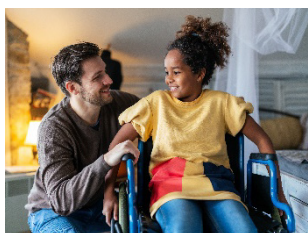
This can help you see how their supports affect your child's life.



You can find out more about these reports on our website.

ndis.gov.au/early-childhood-intervention-provider-reports

Tips to support your child to use assistive technology



There are many ways to support how your child uses assistive technology.

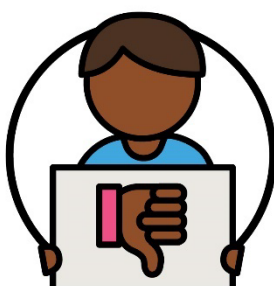


We wrote some tips to help you.

Some of these tips:



- might work well for your child and family



- might not be right for them.

Learning about assistive technology

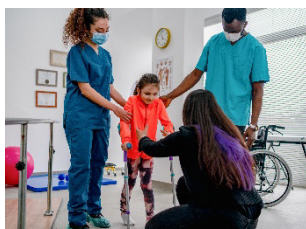


It can be hard to learn and use assistive technology.



It's a good idea for you and your child to keep using their assistive technology.

This will help you both get better at using it.



You and your child might need training to know:

- when to use assistive technology
- how to use assistive technology.



This includes training about how to use your child's assistive technology in a safe way.



Assistive technology training should come from a provider with the right skills.

For example, an **assistive technology advisor**.



An assistive technology advisor is a provider who can:

- give you advice about assistive technology
- help you get the assistive technology you need.

Talking to providers



You can talk to an assistive technology advisor to learn more about assistive technology.

For example, health professionals.

These providers can support you because they:



- have the right skills



- understand different types of assistive technology.



You also might need a report from these providers to use some assistive technology.



You should ask your child's NDIA planner if you need a report.

Supporting your child



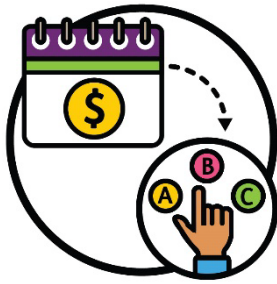
Your child might need support to use their assistive technology.

For example, they might need support to get into their wheelchair.



As your child grows and develops, they might need to change their assistive technology.

Hiring assistive technology



You can hire some assistive technology to try before you make a decision.



You can also hire some assistive technology if your child only needs it for a short time.

Assistive technology supports



Your child might need assistive technology supports in their **NDIS plan**.

An NDIS plan is a document that has information about:



- your child and their goals

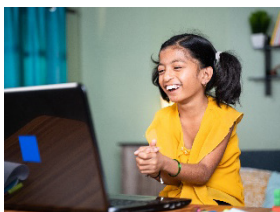


- what supports they need.



- the **funding** the NDIS will give them.

Funding is the money from your child's plan that pays for the supports they need.



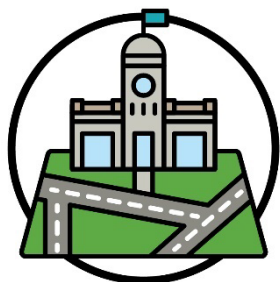
Your child might be able to get assistive technology from **mainstream supports**.



Mainstream supports are supports that anyone can use.

Not just people with disability.

For example, health and education services.



Your child might be able to get assistive technology from **community supports**.

Community supports are from organisations in your local community.

For example, religious groups or your local council.



You can find out more about mainstream and community supports on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/mainstream-community-supports

Finding providers

You can get help to find a provider from your:



- early childhood partner



- NDIA planner



- health professional – like a doctor or child health nurse.



We also have a list of providers on the 'Provider finder' page of our website.

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

Different types of providers



There are different types of assistive technology advisors who can support you with assistive technology.

This includes health professionals who can:



- check what assistive technology your child needs
- give **evidence** to the NDIS that your child needs assistive technology.



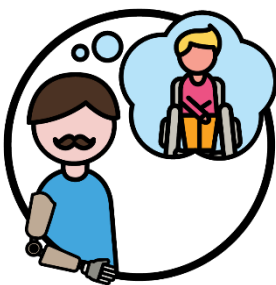
Evidence is proof that something is true.



We call these providers
'assistive technology assessors'.



You can work with a provider who has experience with assistive technology.



For example, they might

- use assistive technology
- know what life can be like for people who use assistive technology.



These providers can give you advice about assistive technology.

But they can't give evidence to the NDIS.



We call these providers 'assistive technology mentors'.



You can also contact **assistive technology suppliers**.

Assistive technology suppliers are providers who offer assistive technology to the community.



Their staff members will know about the types of assistive technology they provide.

But they might not know about other types of assistive technology that could support your child.

What to look for in a provider

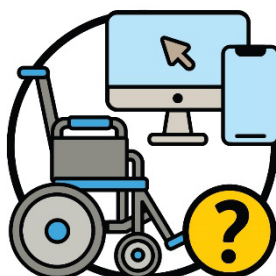


It's important to choose a provider who will listen to you and your family.

They should ask you about:



- your child's goals and what they like to do



- what assistive technology your child has used.



Your provider should let your child take part in decisions about the assistive technology they use.



It's important your provider has the right:

- skills
- experience.



This includes experience with children who have needed the same support as your child.

Questions you can ask providers



We wrote some questions you can ask a provider before you use their services.



How will you help us learn about which supports might be best:

- now?
- in the future?



What experience do you have supporting children who use assistive technology?



What do you think my child and our family can achieve using this technology?

How will you support our family to:



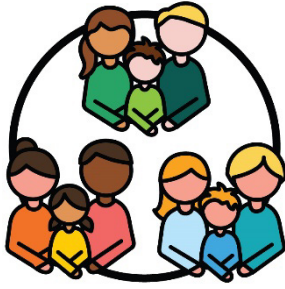
- work towards our goals?



- build our skills?



What information will you use to help us choose the best supports for my child?

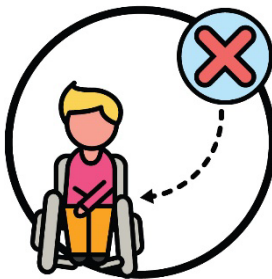


Can you connect us with other families with children who use assistive technology?



How will I know if the assistive technology supports what my child needs?

How will I know if my child:



- does not need assistive technology anymore?



- needs a different type of assistive technology?



What will you do if my child is not:

- getting the support they need?
- reaching their goals?



What can you do to make sure assistive technology supports my child in different places?

For example, when my child is at school.



Will you make sure my child gets the support they need in these places?



Where can I go to update or fix my child's assistive technology?

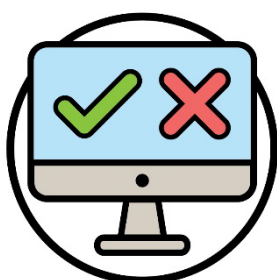
NDIS resources that can help you



We have information about assistive technology.

You can find this on our website.

ndis.gov.au/participants/assistive-technology-explained



We wrote some guidelines that explain how we make decisions about assistive technology.

You can find them on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/assistive-technology



We wrote a guide we call 'Would we fund it'.

It explains what types of supports we provide funding for.

You can find it on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/would-we-fund-it

Using our checklist



We have a checklist that can help you understand your child's supports.

We wrote it in an easy to read way.

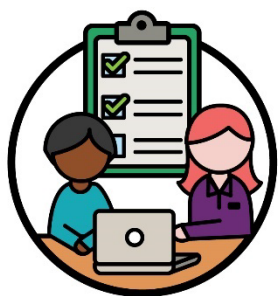
You can use the checklist when you get ready for a meeting with your child's:



- myNDIS contact



- providers.



You can bring the checklist to your child's meeting if you want.



You can find the checklist on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/checklist

More information

For more information about this guide, please contact us.



You can visit our website.

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



You can call us.

1800 800 110



Follow us on Facebook.

facebook.com/NDISAus



Follow us on Twitter.

[@NDIS](https://twitter.com/NDIS)

Twitter is also called X.

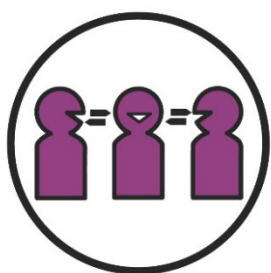
Support to talk to us



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

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

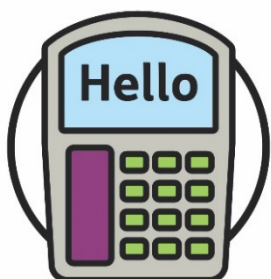
If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



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

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

Word list

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



Assistive technology

Assistive technology can:

- make it easier for your child to do things
- keep your child safe.

Assistive technology advisor



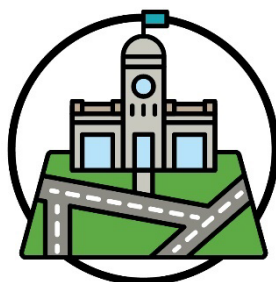
An assistive technology advisor is a provider who can:

- give you advice about assistive technology
- help you get the assistive technology you need.



Assistive technology suppliers

Assistive technology suppliers are providers who offer assistive technology to the community.



Community supports

Community supports are from organisations in your local community.

For example, religious groups or your local council.

Developmental delay



When a child has developmental delay, they might take longer to develop new skills than other children their age.

This means they may need extra help to do everyday things.



Early childhood partner

An early childhood partner is someone who supports children with disability and their families.



Evidence

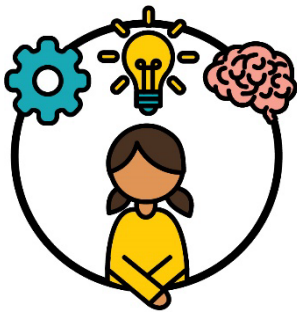
Evidence is proof that something is true.



Funding

Funding is the money from your child's plan that pays for the supports they need.

Intellectual disability



An intellectual disability affects how children:

- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on their own.



Mainstream supports

Mainstream supports are supports that anyone can use.

Not just people with disability.



NDIA planner

AN NDIA planner is someone who makes and updates NDIS plans.

NDIS plan



An NDIS plan is a document that has information about:

- your child and their goals
- what supports they need
- the funding the NDIS will give them.



Physical disability

A physical disability affects how someone moves and uses their body.



Providers

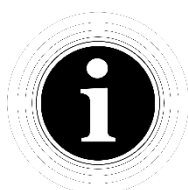
Providers support people who take part in the NDIS by delivering a service.

Sensory disability



A sensory disability affects a child's senses, like their:

- sight
- hearing.



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