



# Assistive technology supports for your child

Supports for your child at home  
and in the community

Easy Read version



**ndis**

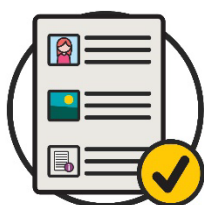
[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

# 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

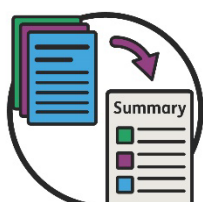
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 26.



This is an Easy Read summary of another guide.



You can find the other guide on our website.

[ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/supporting-your-child-home-and-community-assistive-technology](http://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/supporting-your-child-home-and-community-assistive-technology)



You can ask for help to read this guide.

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

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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 might use assistive technology to:



- communicate



- move around.



Your child might 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](https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/assistive-technology)

## About this guide

This guide is about assistive technology that can support your child:



- at home



- to take part in the community.



This includes support for your child to do more things on their own.



It can also support:

- your child's health and wellbeing
- how your child enjoys their life.

## Who this guide is for



This guide is for families and carers of children with **developmental delay**.



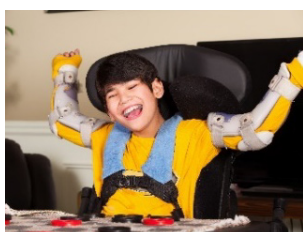
When a child has developmental delay, they might take longer to develop new skills than other children their age.



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



This guide is also for families and carers of children with **physical disability**.



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



This guide is also for families and carers of children with **intellectual disability**.

An intellectual disability affects how children:



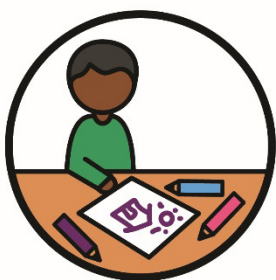
- learn new things



- solve problems



- communicate

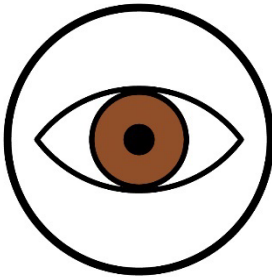


- do things on their own.



This guide is also for families and carers of children with **sensory disability**.

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



- sight



- hearing.

# 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

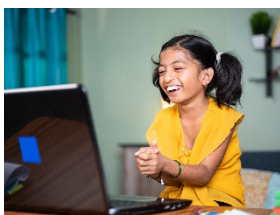


- what supports they need.



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

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



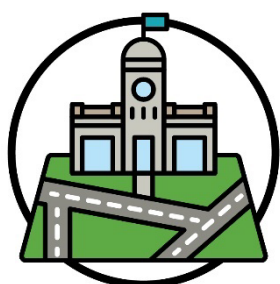
Your child might be able to get assistive technology from **mainstream supports**.



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.



The assistive technology your child needs might change as they grow and develop.

In the sections below we explain the types of assistive technology your child can use.

But there might be other ways you can support your child:



- at home



- in the community.

## **Assistive technology your child can use at home**

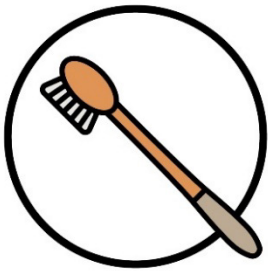
Does your child need support to get ready for the day?



Your child can use assistive technology to support them to get ready for the day.

This can include supports to get dressed on their own.

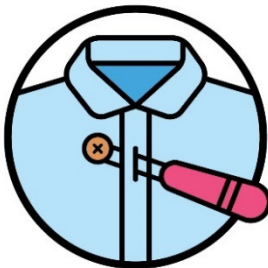
Some assistive technology your child can use include:



- brushes with long handles

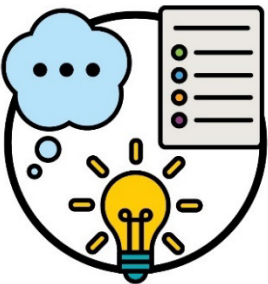


- aids that help a child put on their shoes



- devices that help a child button up their clothes.

It can also include assistive technology that supports your child to:



- think
- plan
- learn.



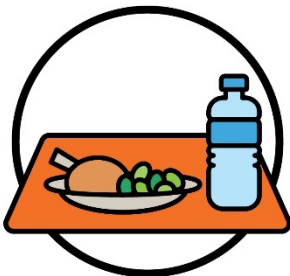
For example, smartphone apps that help children learn and plan daily tasks.

## Does your child need support at mealtime?

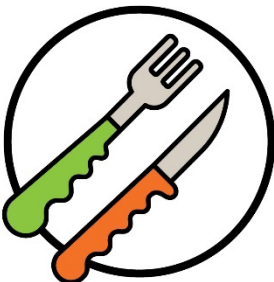


Your child can use assistive technology to support them at mealtime.

This can include:



- non-slip placemats



- knives and forks that are safe and easy to use



- bottles that don't spill.



This can support them to eat and drink:

- safely
- on their own.

Does your child need support in the bathroom?

Your child might need support when they:



- go to the toilet

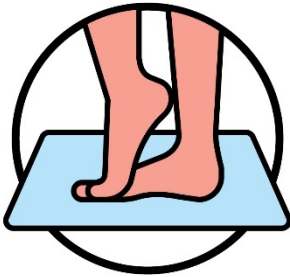


- use a bath or shower.



Your child can use assistive technology to support them in the bathroom.

This can include:



- non-slip mats

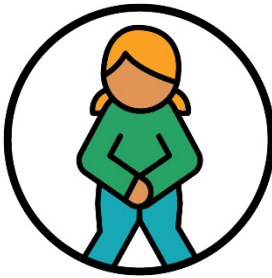


- bath and shower seats



- sponges with long handles.

Some children might also need support with their **continence**.



Continence means you can control when you need to:

- wee
- poo.



If your child needs support with their continence, they could use:

- nappies
- pads.



You can find out more about the continence supports we give funding for on our website.

**[ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/what-types-continence-supports-do-we-fund](http://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/what-types-continence-supports-do-we-fund)**

## Does your child need support to do things on their own?

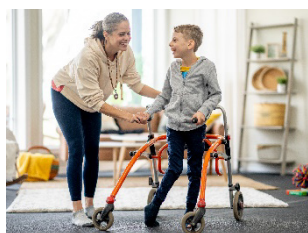


Your child can use assistive technology to do more things on their own.

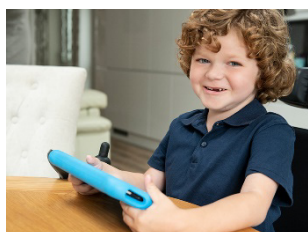
This can include:



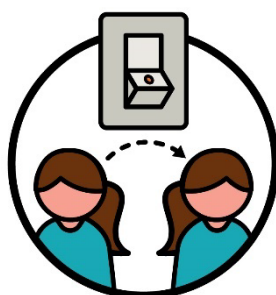
- seats to support how they sit



- support frames to help them stand.



Your child can use assistive technology to use devices in their home.



For example, they can control a switch to turn lights off and on by moving part of their body, like turning their head.



Your child might need parts of their home to change to better support them as they get older.



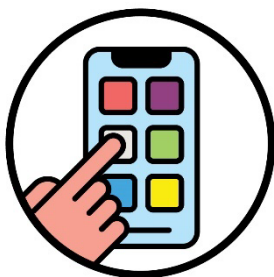
For example, they might need a **hoist**.

A hoist is a tool that helps lift a person from one place or position to another.



You can find out more about what you can change in your home on our website.

[ndis.gov.au/participants/home-and-living/home-modifications-explained](https://www.ndis.gov.au/participants/home-and-living/home-modifications-explained)



Your child can also use smartphone apps to do more things on their own.



They can use smartphone apps to:

- communicate
- learn new skills.

## Assistive technology your child can use in the community

When a child takes part in their community, it can support them to:



- do things on their own



- make friends.



Your child can use assistive technology to take part in their community.

For example, your child can use:



- sports wheelchairs



- frame runners.

## Restrictive practice

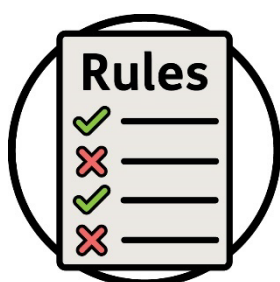


Sometimes people use assistive technology to stop a person from:

- moving
- doing what they want.



When this happens, we call it a **restrictive practice**.



It's important that you and your family understand the rules of restrictive practices.



You can talk to a health professional about what rules you need to follow.



You can find out more about restrictive practices on the NDIS Commission website.

[ndiscommission.gov.au/participants/incidents-and-behaviour-support/understanding-behaviour-support-and-restrictive-0#paragraph-id-4473](https://ndiscommission.gov.au/participants/incidents-and-behaviour-support/understanding-behaviour-support-and-restrictive-0#paragraph-id-4473)

# Who you can talk to about assistive technology



You can talk to people you trust about what assistive technology your child could use.

For example, you can talk to your child's myNDIS contact, like their:



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

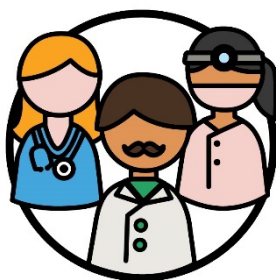


- **NDIA planner** – someone who makes and updates NDIS plans.

You can also talk to:



- **providers** – support people who take part in the NDIS by delivering a service



- health professionals.



They can help you find out about assistive technology supports your child can use to move around.



You can learn more about providers on our website.

[ndis.gov.au/participants/working-providers/  
what-provider](https://ndis.gov.au/participants/working-providers/what-provider)

You can also talk to:



- your family and friends



- other families with experiences like yours



- organisations that support people with disability and their families.

## 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](https://facebook.com/NDISAus)**



Follow us on Twitter.

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

Twitter is also called X.

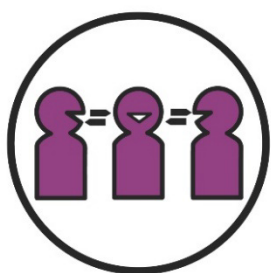
## Support to talk to us



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

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

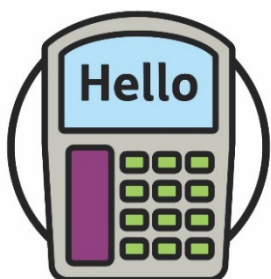
If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



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

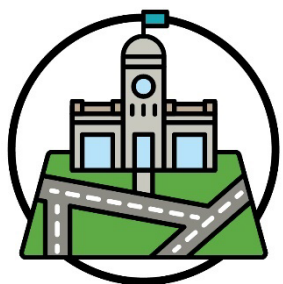
This list explains what the **bold** words in this guide mean.



## Assistive technology

Assistive technology can:

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



## Community supports

Community supports are from organisations in your local community.

For example, religious groups or your local council.



## Continence

Continence means you can control when you need to:

- wee
- poo.

## 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.



## Funding

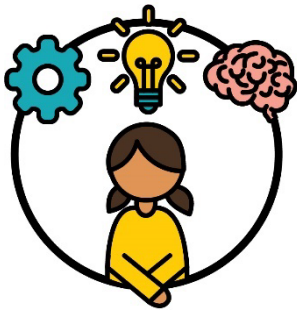
Funding is the money from your child's plan that pays for the supports they need.



## Hoist

A hoist is a tool that helps lift a person from one place or position to another.

## Intellectual disability



An intellectual disability affects how children:

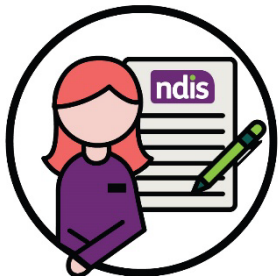
- learn new things
- solve problems
- communicate
- do things on their own.



## 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.



## Restrictive practices

Restrictive practices are actions that stop people from:

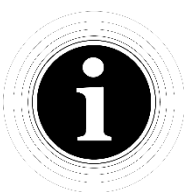
- moving
- doing what they want.

## 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)