



Assistive technology supports for your child

Supports for how your child communicates

Easy Read version



ndis

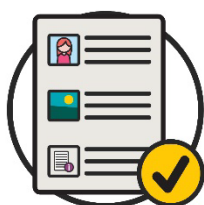
[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

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 22.



This is an Easy Read summary of another guide.



You can find the other guide on our website.

[ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/supporting-your-
childs-communication-assistive-technology](https://ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/supporting-your-childs-communication-assistive-technology)



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person might 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.

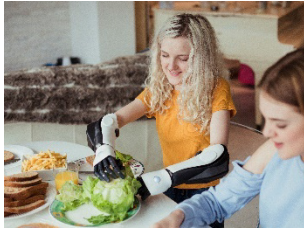
Your child can use assistive technology to:



- 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 this guide

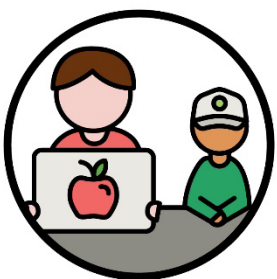


This guide is about assistive technology that can help your child communicate.

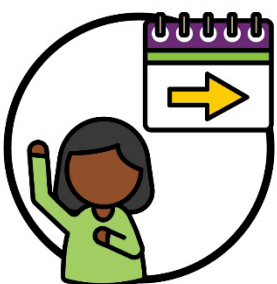


The way a child communicates is an important part of:

- their life
- how they learn and develop.

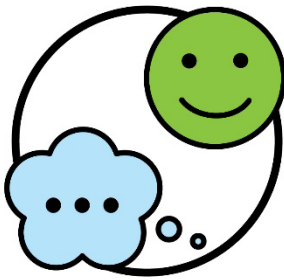


It's important to support your child to communicate as early as possible.



Children who use assistive technology might learn skills to communicate more on their own over time.

Assistive technology can help your child:



- share their thoughts and feelings



- by improving their wellbeing



- do more things on their own.



Assistive technology can also help your child to communicate with others.

For example, their siblings and friends.

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.



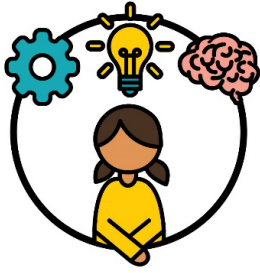
This means they may need extra help to do everyday things.



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:



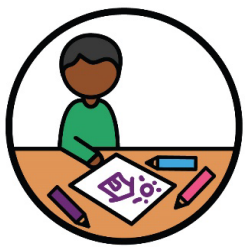
- learn new things



- solve problems



- communicate

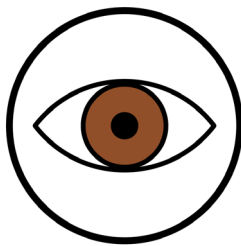


- do things on their own.

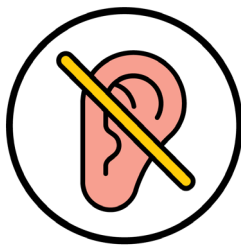


This guide is also for families and carers of children with **sensory disability**.

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



- sight



- hearing.



If you have a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, you can read our other guides on our website.

ourguidelines.ndis.gov.au/understanding-supports/children-who-are-deaf-or-hard-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.



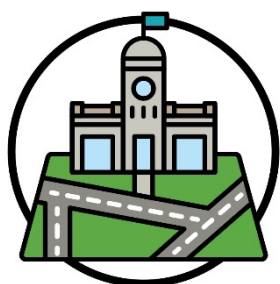
Your child might be able to get assistive technology from **mainstream supports**.



Mainstream supports are supports that anyone can use.

Not just people with disability.

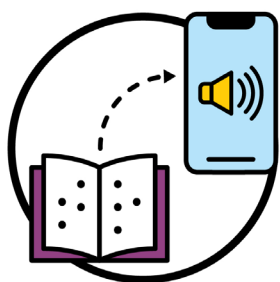
For example, health and education services.



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.



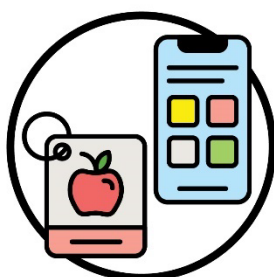
The assistive technology your child needs might change as they grow and develop.



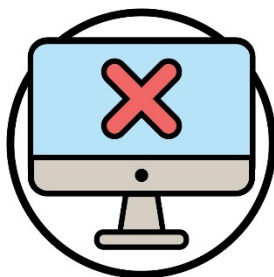
In the sections below we explain the types of assistive technology your child can use.

But there might be other ways to support your child to communicate too.

Tools to support how your child communicates



Your child might need more than one type of assistive technology to help them communicate.

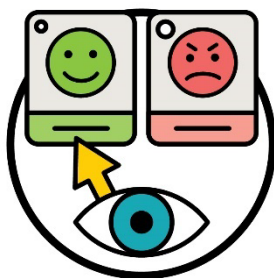


Some tools don't need much technology.

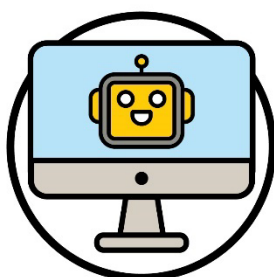


For example, your child could use:

- photos
- cards or books with pictures or symbols.

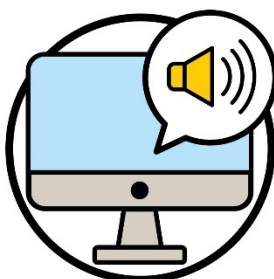


They could also communicate by focusing their eyes on pictures or symbols on a board.



Some tools need more complex technology.

For example, your child could use:



- a device that reads their messages out loud



- an app that supports them to communicate.



Your child might also need a **communication partner**.

Communication partners are people who support children to learn how to use tools to communicate.

Communication partners can be:



- family
- parents and carers
- teachers
- friends.



Communication partners should do training about how to use the tools they are helping a child to use.



You can learn more about different types of assistive technology on the Communication Hub website.

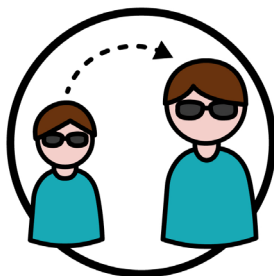
www.communicationhub.com.au/AidsAndSupports

Support for children who are blind or have low vision



Children who are blind or have low vision can use other types of assistive technology.

This assistive technology can support them to:



- develop and grow

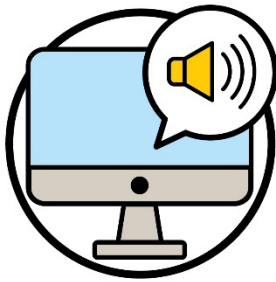


- move around

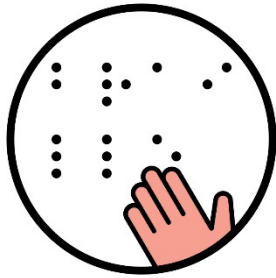


- take part in day-to-day tasks.

It includes:



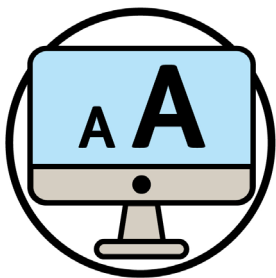
- screen readers



- braille printers



- reading devices, like audio book players



- tools and technology that make things look bigger, like glasses or computer programs.



You can find assistive technology for children who are blind or have low vision on the National Equipment Database website.

askned.com.au/aids-for-vision-and-hearing

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

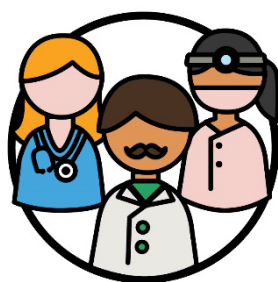


- **NDIA planner** – someone who makes and updates NDIS plans.

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 communicate.



You can learn more about providers on our website.

ndis.gov.au/participants/working-providers/what-provider

You can also talk to:



- your family and friends



- other families with experiences like yours



- organisations who 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



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Follow us on Twitter.

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

Twitter is also called X.

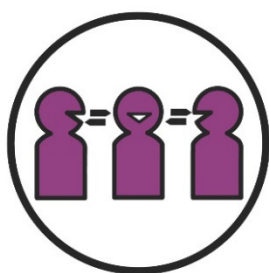
Support to talk to us



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

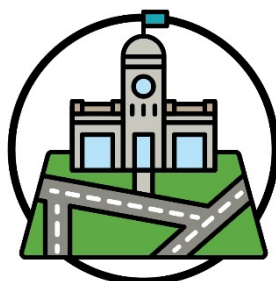
Assistive technology can:

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



Communication partner

Communication partners are people who support children to learn how to use tools to communicate.



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.

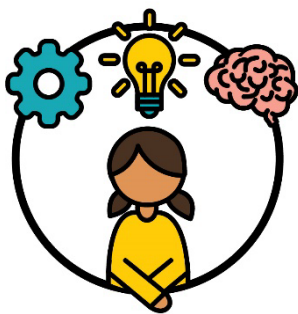


Funding

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

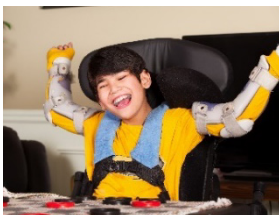
AN NDIA planner is someone who makes and updates NDIS plans.



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

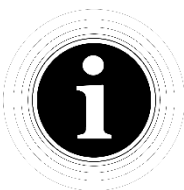
Providers support people who take part in the NDIS by delivering a service.

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)