



# Assistive technology supports for your child

Supports for how your child moves around

Easy Read version



**ndis**

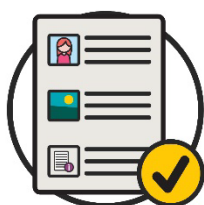
[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)

# 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

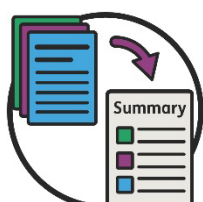
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 25.



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

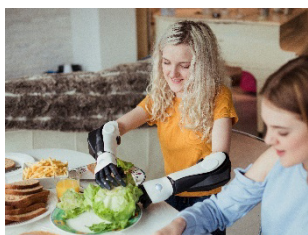
Your child can use assistive technology to:



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



## About this guide

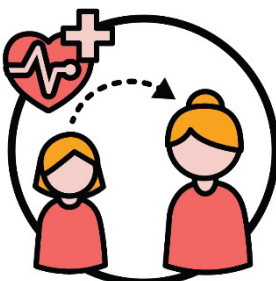


This guide is about assistive technology that can help your child move around.



When a child can move around, it is easier for them to:

- play with others
- take part in their community.



This can also support how their body:

- grows and develops
- keeps healthy.



Assistive technology can support your child to move around in different places.

For example, at home or school.

## Who this guide is for



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



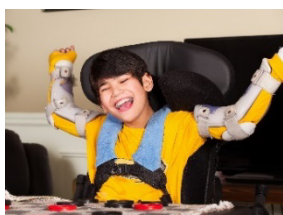
When a child has developmental delay, they might take longer to develop new skills than other children their age.



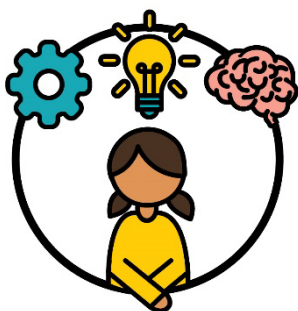
This means they may need extra help to do everyday things.



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**.

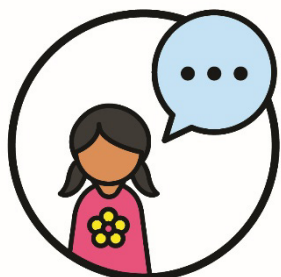
An intellectual disability affects how children:



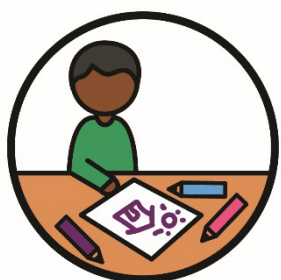
- learn new things



- solve problems

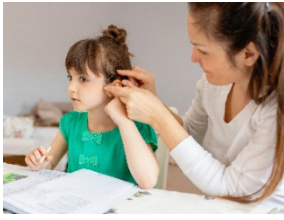


- communicate



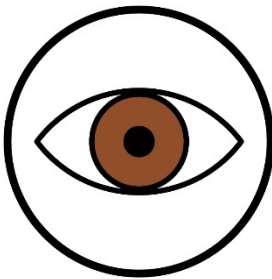
- do things on their own.



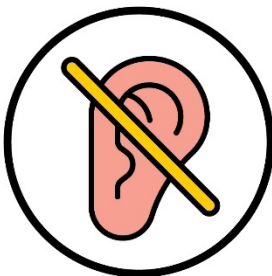


This guide is also for families and carers of children with **sensory disability**.

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

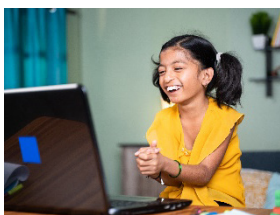


- what supports they need.



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

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



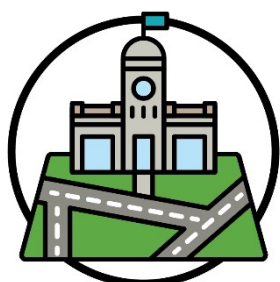
Your child might be able to get assistive technology from **mainstream supports**.



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 to move around too.

## Does your child need support to walk?



If your child needs support to walk, there are health professionals who can:

- work with you and your child
- help your child with assistive technology.



For example, you can talk to an **occupational therapist**.

An occupational therapist helps someone find ways to do everyday tasks.

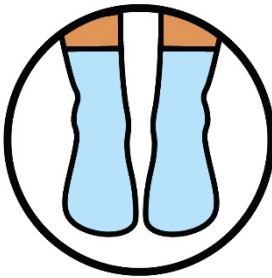
Some assistive technology your child can use include:



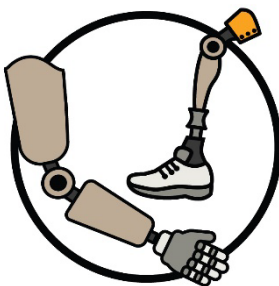
- walking aids, like a walker or walking stick



- footwear that supports how they walk

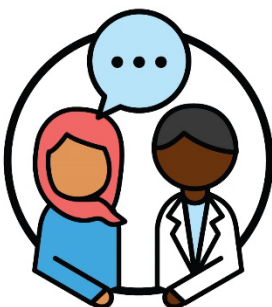


- clothes that support how they walk, like tight elastic socks.



Your child might also use a **prosthetic**.

A prosthetic is equipment that replaces a part of the body, like a leg or arm.



You can talk to a health professional about whether a prosthetic will support your child.

## Does your child need support to move their upper body?



Your child can use assistive technology to support how they move their upper body.

This includes their:



- shoulders
- elbows
- wrists or hands.

Some assistive technology your child can use include:



- slings



- elbow braces.



You can talk to a health professional about what assistive technology will work best for your child.



## Does your child need a stroller or wheelchair?



Some families use strollers to support how their child moves around.

This includes strollers:

- with extra supports
- you can use outside.



Some children use wheelchairs to move around.

There are 3 types of wheelchairs your child can use.

They include wheelchairs that:



- a child can use on their own



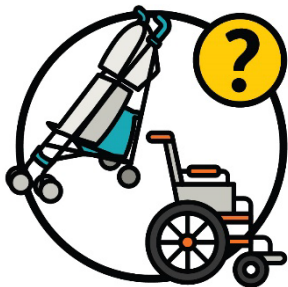
- a carer must move for a child



- can tilt a child backward and forward.



Some children use a wheelchair that has a motor to move them around.



It's important to work out if your child needs support from a stroller or a wheelchair.



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

For example, your child might need back and head support for their wheelchair.



Your child might also need support to help them move between places.

For example, if they need to move from their wheelchair to their bed.

## Does your child need support when they travel in a vehicle?



Your child can use assistive technology when they travel.

This can include supports in a:



- car



- van



- bus.

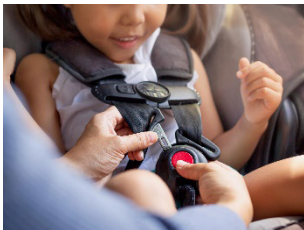
It can include:



- ramps



- child car seats



- seat belts.



Your child might also need another physical support to keep them safe while they travel.

For example, a travel harness or vest.

# Restrictive practice

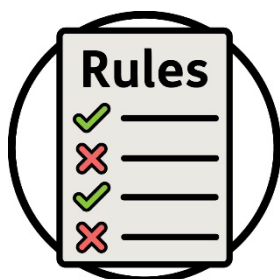


Sometimes people use assistive technology to stop a person from:

- 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 the 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



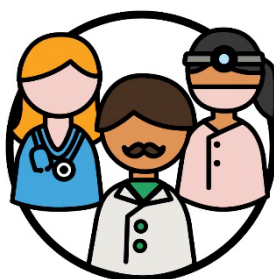
- **NDIA planner** – someone who makes and updates NDIS plans.



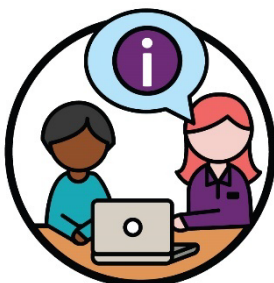
You can also talk to:



- **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)**



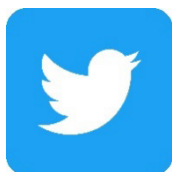
You can call us.

**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.

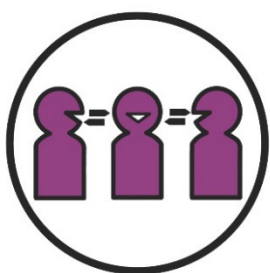
## Support to talk to us



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

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

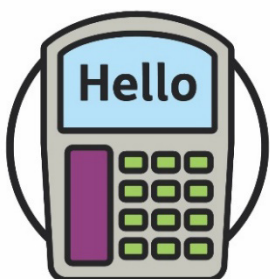
If you speak a language other than English, you can call:



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

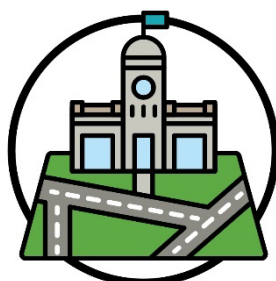
This list explains what the **bold** words in this guide mean.



### **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.



### **Developmental delay**

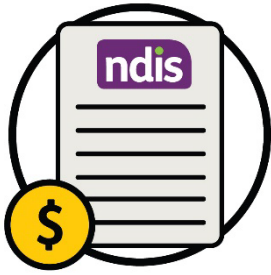
When child has developmental delay, they might take longer to develop new skills than other children their age.

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



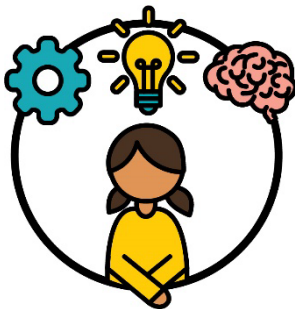
### **Early childhood partner**

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.



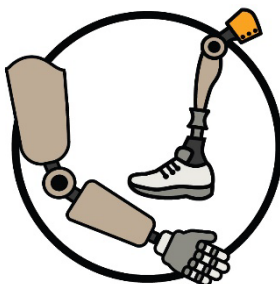
## Occupational therapist

An occupational therapist helps someone find ways to do everyday tasks.



## Physical disability

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



## Prosthetic

A prosthetic is equipment that replaces a part of the body, like a leg or arm.



## 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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