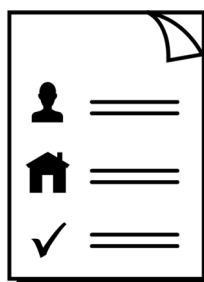




Disability and education in Australia

Ideas from families with young children

Summary



Easy Read



Children and Young People
with Disability Australia

About this booklet



This booklet is from Children and Young People with Disability Australia or CYDA.

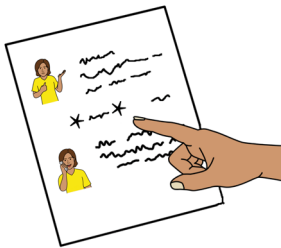


This booklet is written in a way that is easy to understand.



You can read more information about this topic on our website at

bit.ly/CYDA_Earlychildhood



We add a star before and after ***hard words***. Then we explain what the words mean.



You can ask someone to help you read and understand this booklet.



Contact information is at the end of this booklet.

About our research

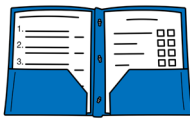


We do ***research*** about the ***experiences*** of children and young people with disability at school.

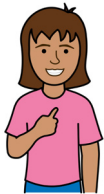


Research means

- we ask questions to learn more about something



- we write a report about what we find.



Experiences means

- what happens to you



- how you feel.



We do this research over the years to see if things have changed.

What do we know about this topic?



Many students with disability are more likely to be

- ***segregated***



- ***suspended***



- ***expelled*.**



Segregated means to keep away from others.



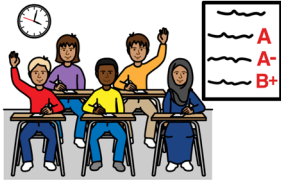
Suspended means you cannot go to your school for a short time.



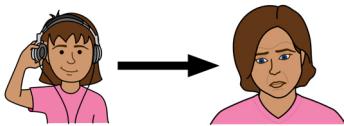
Expelled means you cannot go back to that school.



Over the last 15 years students with disability have reached higher levels at school than before.



But these levels are lower than children and young people without disability.



These experiences can affect students with disability for a long time.



This is the first time we have done research to learn about what happens in ***early childhood education and care centres***.



Early childhood education and care centres are where children learn, play and grow before they are ready for school.

We will call them **centres**.



Good education and care at this stage of a child's life can help them do well in the future.

About our survey



We did a ***survey*** to hear ideas from families with young children with disability.

	1	2	3
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A survey is a list of questions about a topic.



The survey was done across Australia from May to August 2022.

Survey questions

The survey questions were about



- what services and supports children and families used



- what people thought of the services and supports



- what people thought of staff training.

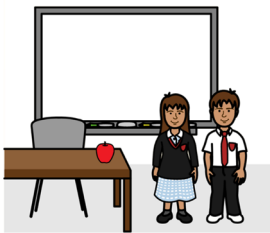


The survey was also about whether children had been ***excluded*** or ***bullied*** at their centre.

Excluded means to be left out.



Bullied means a person or people hurt someone lots of times.

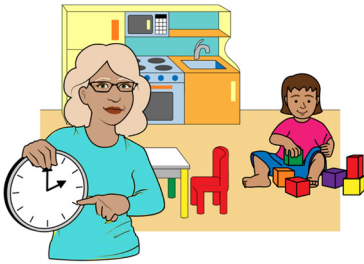


We also asked families about their plans for primary school.

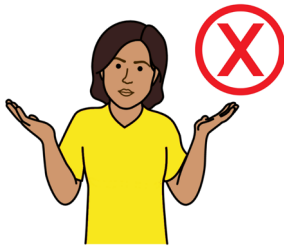
What we found



We found that most families and children felt welcome at their centre.



But some families felt staff did not have enough time or the right skills to support children with disability.



We found that

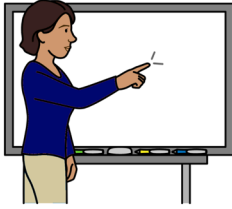
- about 1 in 5 families could not get their child in to a centre



- about 1 in 4 families were asked to send their child to the centre for less hours than other children



- about 1 in 3 families said their child had been excluded or bullied at their centre.

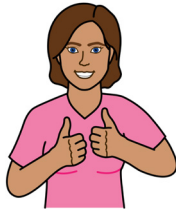


It is clear that staff need more support and training to help children with disability.



When children have a good experience at their centre they will

- have a good start to life



- have a good future.



Most families said they wanted their child to go to a ***mainstream school*** with support.

Mainstream school is for all students.



Many families felt mainstream school was a better option than special school or sending their child to 2 different schools.



Most families said it is good for everyone when children with disabilities are included in mainstream schools.



For example, children learn how to play with and include everyone.

Our summary

Children with disability need more support to

- access good early childhood education and care
- have good experiences at their centres
- go to mainstream schools if they want to.





Call 03 9417 1025



Visit cyda.org.au



Email info@cyda.org.au



If you need help to speak or listen, the National Relay Service can help you make a call.

Call 1800 555 660

Visit accesshub.gov.au/nrs-helpdesk



If you need help with other languages, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service.

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