



Enabling families of children  
with health and disability  
needs since 1949

## SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN MAINSTREAM CHILDCARE



[xavier.org.au](http://xavier.org.au)



## Our vision

At Xavier, we have a vision for children with disability to access high quality inclusive environments in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). We understand the vulnerability of children with high intensity needs and the challenges involved in finding the balance between providing opportunities for them to be immersed in a learning environment where they can be autonomous, make friends, learn and play with their peers whilst also being monitored by appropriately trained support staff who can ensure that their health needs are being met. Xavier Support Workers share this vision. Our Inclusion Advisor will work with families, our Support Workers and the ECEC service to ensure this balance can be found.

### What is Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)?

For the purpose of this factsheet ECEC includes:

- Childcare
- Early Learning Centre
- Outside School Hours Care
- Vacation Care
- Kindergarten
- Family Day Care
- In-Home Care

## The role of the Support Worker

The role of the Support Worker in an ECEC environment is different to other settings. The Support Worker's main objective is to enable children to become active and involved members of the learning environment. This is achieved by ensuring that high intensity health requirements are met appropriately and then standing back to allow the child to interact with the other children and their Educators. It is not the role of the Support Worker to educate or facilitate inclusion within the ECEC setting.

## The role of ECEC

Genuinely inclusive ECEC will get to know the child and their needs and ensure that the program that they provide will work to the child's strengths and support them to become active participants. They will work closely with the Support Worker and families to ensure that any health and safety requirements can become part of their whole room routine (ie special mealtime requirements, timing of medication, rest and sleep, communication needs etc).

If at any point you feel that this is not occurring or could be done more effectively, our Inclusion Advisor will help the Support Worker and ECEC to work together.

## Making inclusive childcare possible

Inclusive learning environments are about developing relationships with children which are responsive, respectful and promote children's sense of security and belonging. Our Inclusion Advisor will support families, ECECs and Support Workers to make this possible.

**At Xavier, we have a vision for children with disability to access high quality inclusive environments in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).**



## Further Information

Call: 1800 XAVIER

Email: [intake@xavier.org.au](mailto:intake@xavier.org.au)

[www.xavier.org.au](http://www.xavier.org.au)

