



Sector Capacity Building Program

A whole team approach to inclusion

This fact sheet provides areas for consideration around the role of educators employed with high learning support needs funding in preschools.

Rationale

As identified in the Early Childhood Australia Statement on the Inclusion of Every Child in Education and Care, there are three dimensions that underpin inclusion: access for all children, participation on an equal basis with their peers and positive outcomes for every child.

Any strategies to support an individual child should be as inclusive as possible, ensuring all children's needs are met and all children experience a sense of belonging.

It is considered best practice for support to be embedded in such a way that children with disabilities interact with every member of the educational team.

Ensuring that all educators work in an inclusive way

All educators should:

- ▶ Work as a member of the team, sharing the daily work and responsibilities to support the participation of all children (including children with disabilities) in all aspects of the program.
- ▶ Interact with all children and provide support to individual children when needed, including the child with high support needs. These interactions should be balanced across the team to ensure neither children, nor other team members, develop a dependency on the additional educator. The goal is for all educators to build their confidence and skills in supporting all children's participation.

- ▶ Be involved in reflecting on and developing an inclusive learning environment that ensures all children with disabilities are included in all aspects of the program alongside their typically developing peers.
- ▶ Be involved in collaboratively developing, implementing and evaluating individual learning plans (ILPs) as a member of the team.

One particular educator should not:

- ▶ Be solely responsible for supporting a child with high support needs, or for providing ongoing one to one support.
- ▶ Separate children from their peers either within the room or by taking them to a separate environment.
- ▶ Be solely responsible for developing children's Individual Learning Plans and experiences that enable children to reach their goals.

Note: Your Sector Capacity Building Preschool Inclusion Consultant can support you to reflect on how to embed strategies across your preschool programs and work collaboratively with families, therapists and any other professionals.

Reference: Inclusion Development Fund Manager
The Role of the Additional Educator Fact Sheet