

# Early Childhood Inclusion Service



## Eligibility criteria

Children are eligible for support from the Department for Education, Children and Young People's (DECYP) Early Childhood Inclusion Service (ECIS) if they are aged birth - four years, are not yet in their Kindergarten year and have:

- a diagnosed disability
- delays in at least two developmental areas (i.e. cognition, communication, physical, social, emotional or adaptive development) as identified by ECIS staff through Ages and Stages Questionnaire 3 (ASQ 3) or ASQ Social-Emotional
- a medically diagnosed condition that has a high probability of contributing to a developmental delay or
- significant atypical development.

ECIS will determine children's eligibility in partnership with their family and relevant practitioners (e.g. paediatrician, general practitioner, child health nurse, psychologist, therapist, early childhood teacher, etc).

If existing information or medical records are adequate to determine eligibility, ECIS staff may elect not to undertake additional screening.

If using a standardised screening is not appropriate, children's eligibility may be determined by ECIS through a professional evaluation supported by a documented rationale and direct observation data.

## Not Eligible

Children must meet the above criteria to be eligible for support from ECIS. If a child has a single area of concern (e.g. speech or language or behavioural concerns only) and other developmental areas are on track, they are not eligible for support from ECIS.

If a child has been identified as ineligible for support:

- ECIS will provide their family with information about inclusive early learning settings (e.g. Launching into Learning, Pre-Kindergarten and Child and Family Learning Centres), support services and networks and
- families are welcome to re-engage with ECIS at a later time if their circumstances change.