KIIND SNAPSHOTS

Early learning

Choosing the right school for your child is important. For parents new to raising a child with a developmental delay or disability, this journey can feel both exciting and overwhelming. We've created this guide to help you find the right fit for your child.

Exploring school options

When considering early schooling, there are several paths to choose from:

Mainstream public or private schools offer a traditional education setting with a range of academic and extracurricular activities.

Dual enrolment allows your child to attend both a specialist and a mainstream school.

Education support units or centres offer learning support teachers, tailored learning areas, and specialised resources within a mainstream school environment.

Community schools often emphasise a more personalised and holistic approach to education.

Distance education allows children to receive their education remotely.

Homeschooling provides the flexibility to tailor the curriculum to your child's learning pace and interests in the home environment.

School readiness

Starting school may come with big changes to family routines. Here are some tips to help your child feel supported about this transition:

Talk about school positively and frequently. This can help build excitement and help your child look forward to the new experience.

Social stories and books can help familiarise your child with the school environment and staff.

Practicing school routines at home. Packing a school bag and using a lunch box, can help your child adjust to the new daily schedule.

Visit the school beforehand. Attend open days and orientations with your child and explore the school grounds together.

Familiarise your child with school supplies. Purchase uniforms, footwear, and other school essentials in advance.

Arrange playdates with other children who will be attending the same school.

Working with the school

If you believe your child needs additional support in the classroom, start by discussing options with their teacher, such as:

Classroom accommodations. Accommodations may include, preferential seating, such as sitting near the front of the class, or for frequent breaks to manage attention and energy levels.

Providing additional support tools, like audio recorders or alternate formats for assignments, sensory rooms, personalised feedback or extended test-taking time.

Visual schedules and communication devices can support your child's interaction with teachers and peers.

Working with an educational assistant (EA) can offer tailored support.

An Individualised Education Plan (IEP) can formalise necessary accommodations and ensure your child's educational experience is adapted to their specific requirements.

Need additional support?

Book a Pathway Planning session with our Peer Navigators for practical guidance, information and support.

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