

Expansion of Early Intervention Services (EIS)

Information for
Parents, Caregivers,
Family and Whānau



The Early Intervention Service (EIS) is a learning support service for children with additional developmental, communication or behavioural needs.

From Term 1 2026, EIS is expanding to support children from birth through to the end of Year 1 of school. Currently, EIS ends when a child starts school.

EIS works with children and their families

Early intervention teams work with families, early learning services, schools and kura who ask for support when they are concerned about a child's learning and development.

The expansion of this service through to the end of Year 1 of school means that children and whānau will be supported from early learning settings to school, with the right supports in place to get the best start.

How to get support

All tamariki develop at their own pace, but at times parents may have concerns about their child's learning. If you are worried, talking to someone knowledgeable who knows your child and can provide support is a good place to start.

You can contact:

- › Your early learning service, by speaking with your child's early learning teacher
- › Your school directly, by speaking with your child's teacher or the school's learning support coordinator (LSC) or Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO)
- › Your healthcare providers, such as your doctor, Whānau Āwhina Plunket or Well Child Tamariki Ora.

Talk to our learning support team

You can also contact us for more advice and support.

- › [Regional offices.](#)

Our learning support team members can help clarify whether you and your child may need extra support, and what options are available.

More information

- › [Supporting your child if they need extra help with their learning - Ministry of Education](#) including EIS Factsheet for Parents
- › [Learning support when your child moves to school - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [If you are worried about your child's learning - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [Budget 2025 investment for Learning Support](#)

Questions and Answers

Who is eligible for Early Intervention Services?

EIS support is available for learners from birth through to the end of Year 1, from 2026.

Can a parent make a request for learning support?

Yes. Parents can raise concerns with their early learning teachers, school teacher, or Learning Support Coordinator. Schools and early learning services may work with parents to assess their child's needs and connect with the right supports and services.

Does my child need a diagnosis to access learning support?

Children do not need a formal diagnosis to access learning support.

My child is a new entrant at school, can my child be referred to EIS?

Yes, children with newly identified needs in Year 0 or 1 can be referred to EIS, from 2026.

What help can my child access if they need learning support beyond Year 1?

From 2026, EIS support is available for learners through to the end of Year 1 at school.

If a child requires learning support beyond Year 1, they may be supported by the Resource Teacher Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), or Behaviour and Communications Services, or within school supports such as SENCO or LSC.

Speak to your child's teacher if you think your child may need ongoing support.

Who provides consent for EIS support?

Parents give their consent for EIS support and can withdraw consent at any time. Signed informed consent is required from parents.

"Budget 2025 is the largest investment in learning support in a generation. It focuses on early intervention, expands services, and improves access to specialists, to ensure learners get the support they need."

