

Early Intervention Specialist Service (EISS)

Specialist support for children with high and complex needs

Information for
parents, caregivers,
family and whānau



The Early Intervention Specialist Service (EISS) is a learning support service for children with high and complex developmental needs. EISS provides tailored, specialised support for children/mokopuna from birth to the end of Year 1 at school.

Who can get EISS

While all tamariki develop at their own pace, some children have needs that may significantly affect their ability to participate meaningfully in everyday activities. If your child has high and complex needs, they may be eligible for Early Intervention Specialist Services (EISS). Your child does not need a diagnosis to get EISS support.

Getting support

Your education or health provider may talk to you about your child's needs and the support available for them.

However, if you are concerned about your child's learning, you can contact any of the following to ask for help:

- › Your early learning service, by speaking with your child's early childhood educator
- › 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 provider, such as your doctor, Whānau Āwhina Plunket or Well Child Tamariki Ora
- › The Ministry of Education office in your region: [Regional offices - Ministry of Education](#). Our learning support team members can help you understand what support may be available and guide you through the process.

Your choice

EISS is delivered through the Ministry's Early Intervention Service (EIS) and alternate service providers. If your child is eligible for EISS, you will be given information about the available providers in your region, their services and wait times. You can then choose the provider that best meets the needs of your child and whānau.

If your circumstances or needs change, you can request a different provider by contacting your current provider or the Ministry.

How the support is delivered

Your selected provider will work with you to create a plan that will support your child's/mokopuna learning and development. This plan can be put into action at home, early learning setting or school. You will be actively involved in your child's/mokopuna support, and the provider will regularly connect with you to plan and reflect on progress throughout the process.

EISS supports children up to the end of Year 1 at school. If your child needs ongoing support, a plan will be made to transition them to another service, such as Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) or other school-based supports.

More information

- › [If you are worried about your child's learning - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [Learning support when your child moves to school - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [Supporting your child if they need extra help with their learning - Ministry of Education](#)
- › [Learning support privacy statement](#)