

# About the Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets

## All children with a disability can benefit from a year of kindergarten before they start school

Inspired by parent stories such as *Dream come true*, *A fantastic year* and *Towards independence*, this series of Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets is designed to provide parents of children with a disability living in Victoria with information about kindergarten.

With the day-to-day demands of being a parent of a child with a disability, sometimes it can be difficult to find the time and energy to plan ahead for the following year.

A successful year of kindergarten requires planning and input from parents and a positive approach towards including children with disabilities from kindergarten teachers and everyone involved in kindergarten programs.

A *Planning guide for the year before your child starts kindergarten* is included as part of the tip sheet on *Planning with the Program Support Group*.

We hope this series of Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets helps you with planning ahead for your child's participation in kindergarten, and that you and your child enjoy the many benefits of a positive kindergarten experience.

## 'Disability'

### The word disability means different things to different people

Some people and organisations try to avoid using the word 'disability', preferring instead phrases such as 'special needs', 'additional needs' or 'children of differing ability'.

In these sheets we use the word disability but we understand and respect that some people prefer not to use the word disability to describe their child.

Disability doesn't have to be a negative word.

It is important to acknowledge and understand the difficulties and limitations that disability can place on your child and family.

It is also important to focus on your child's strengths and abilities.

We might use different words to describe our situation, but what brings us together is a shared belief in our strengths as parents, as we strive for what is best for our children and families.

## Contents

This series of Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets includes separate sheets on the following topics:

- **Parent story: Dream come true**
- **Parent story: A fantastic year**
- **Parent story: Towards independence**
- **Kindergarten is a program for all children**
- **Choosing a kindergarten service**
- **Overview of support for kindergarten services to include children with a disability**
- **Planning with the Program Support Group**
  - Kindergarten Inclusion Support Plan
  - Children with complex care needs
  - Planning guide for the year before your child starts kindergarten
- **Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services packages**
- **Encouraging your child's independence**
- **Communication**
- **Looking after yourself**
- **Being part of the kindergarten community**
- **A second year of kindergarten**
- **Going to school**

## Acknowledgements

The Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets were developed by the Association for Children with a Disability in partnership with the Victorian Government's Office for Children and Early Childhood Development within the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD).

Thanks to the DEECD staff who provided helpful assistance with the development of the tip sheets.

Thanks also to the many parents and early childhood professionals who provided comment and input.



## The Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets are available free of charge

With the assistance of funding from the Victorian Government, our Association is able to provide copies of the Kindergarten Inclusion Tip Sheets free of charge to all families of children with a disability in Victoria.

Copies are available on request to the Association office and from our website [www.acd.org.au](http://www.acd.org.au)

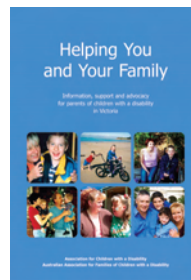
## Association for Children with a Disability

We provide information, support and advocacy to families who have a child or young adult with any type of disability or developmental delay across Victoria.

Our Association is run by parents so we know what it means to have a child with a disability. We understand issues from a family perspective.

Our services include free telephone information and advocacy support for families. Our member magazine *NoticeBoard* includes family stories that are a great source of strength and inspiration for other families and professionals who work with families.

Other free publications include :



*Helping You and Your Family: Information, support and advocacy for parents of children with a disability in Victoria*

## Language interpreters

If you need a language interpreter to access our service, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50.

Tell the operator your preferred language and that you want to speak to the Association for Children with a Disability on 03 9818 2000. This is a free service.

**Association for Children with a Disability**  
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Fax 03 9818 2300 Email [mail@acd.org.au](mailto:mail@acd.org.au)

Web [www.acd.org.au](http://www.acd.org.au)

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