

Early childhood education and care services in NSW

Information for other government agencies

This information is relevant for any agency that interacts with early childhood education and care (ECEC) services or families attending ECEC services. ECEC services include long day care, preschool, family day care, outside school hours care, vacation care, occasional care and mobile services.

There are 2 main areas of the NSW Department of Education with responsibilities in early childhood education and care:

NSW Regulatory Authority

The NSW Department of Education is the Regulatory Authority (NSW Regulatory Authority) for the ECEC sector in NSW. It regulates, monitors and supports over 6,000 ECEC services. We work to drive quality outcomes for children and communities through early childhood education, to ensure all children get the best start in life. The health, safety and wellbeing of children is the highest priority for the department.

Our regulatory responsibilities include:

- enforcing compliance with the National Law and Regulations*
- working and sharing information with other agencies such as the Office of the Children's Guardian to support the sector to be child safe
- processing applications for provider and service approvals
- assessing and rating services against the National Quality Standard to support children's learning and development and services' continuous quality improvement.

*This includes investigating serious incidents that occur in ECEC services such as injuries, assaults or death and undertaking a range of compliance action, including prosecutions and prohibitions.

Notifications and reporting

If you have information about an incident, allegation and/or complaint within an ECEC service in NSW.

View our [Notifications and reporting webpage](#) for more information.



Compliance issue

If you have information about an ECEC service not complying with the various acts, regulations and frameworks that govern services.

View our [Regulatory and compliance webpage](#) for more information.



Approvals information

If you have relevant information about someone who is seeking to own and/or operate a service in NSW (including referring development applications for local councils).

View our [Provider application process webpage](#) for more information.



Information sharing

If you represent an agency deemed a prescribed body under Chapter 16A of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* and need to request or provide information to support an investigation and/or activities to prevent risk of harm to children.

View our brochure about [sharing information under Chapter 16A here](#).





Early Childhood Outcomes

The NSW Department of Education is responsible for ensuring all children make a strong start in life and learning and make a successful transition to school.

Through the funding of programs to support more children to access quality early childhood education and care across the state, the Early Childhood Outcomes division also leads the delivery of new early learning and child development initiatives to support all children in the critical first 5 years of life.

A key focus of the division is to ensure that all children in NSW can participate in 600 hours of quality preschool in the year before school, regardless of where they live or what their circumstances are.

Funding

If you have any questions about the various grants and funded programs (such as Start Strong – preschool fee relief) related to early childhood education and care.

Visit our [Current funded and grants programs webpage](#) for more information.



Collaborations

If you work with children and families and would like to partner with us on initiatives to support children's health, safety and wellbeing or improved learning outcomes through access to early childhood education and care.

View our [ECE resource library webpage](#) for more information.



How to contact us?

Please call 1800 619 113 (toll free) or email ececd@det.nsw.edu.au

 @NSWECE

 education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education