



Evidence to Action: Strengthening children's development through a National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention

AECD Webinar March 2026



Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live. We acknowledge and are grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy.

In making this Acknowledgment of Country we commit to respectful and responsible conduct towards all others according to the Traditional lores of this land, particularly at times of formal ceremony.

A partnered approach to development



Consortium partnership



Reviewed the evidence



Consulted widely



Synthesised findings and insights

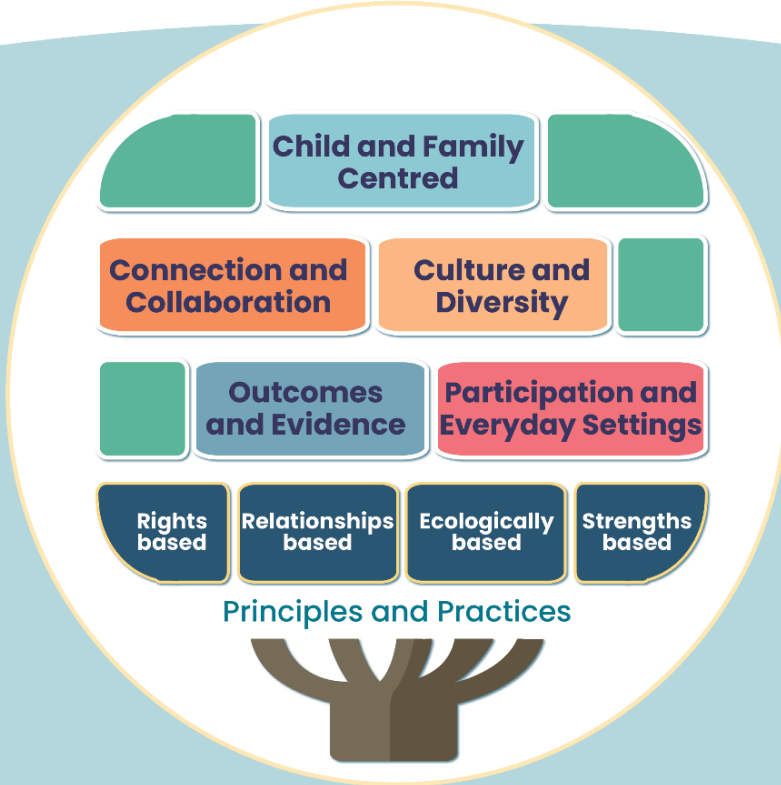
National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention

National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention

All children with developmental concerns, delay or disability and their families thrive in their early years



Aims and outcomes for children, families, communities and services



An integrated system providing a continuum of support for children and families

Universal Supports

Foundational Supports

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Vision and aims



Vision

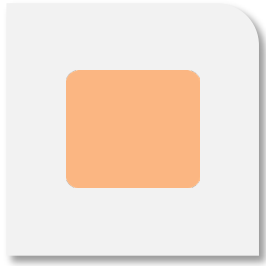
**All children in
Australia thrive in
their early years**

**All children with
developmental concerns,
delay or disability and their
families, thrive in their early
years**





Aims and outcomes for early childhood intervention services



Children

To build on child strengths and interests to enhance learning, development and meaningful participation in everyday activities



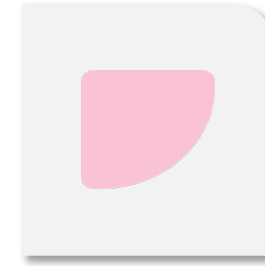
Parents, carers and families

To acknowledge and respect family and community cultures and to strengthen knowledge, skills and confidence to support child and family quality of life



Communities

To understand child development and wellbeing, and to help create safe, welcoming, inclusive and connected communities



Service agencies and practitioners

To contribute to the development of a collaborative and integrated network of holistic supports for children, parents, carers, families and communities and to build supportive networks with colleagues

Services for children with developmental concerns, delay or disability



An integrated system providing a continuum of support for children and families

**Universal
Supports**

**Foundational Supports
Thriving Kids**

**National Disability
Insurance Scheme**



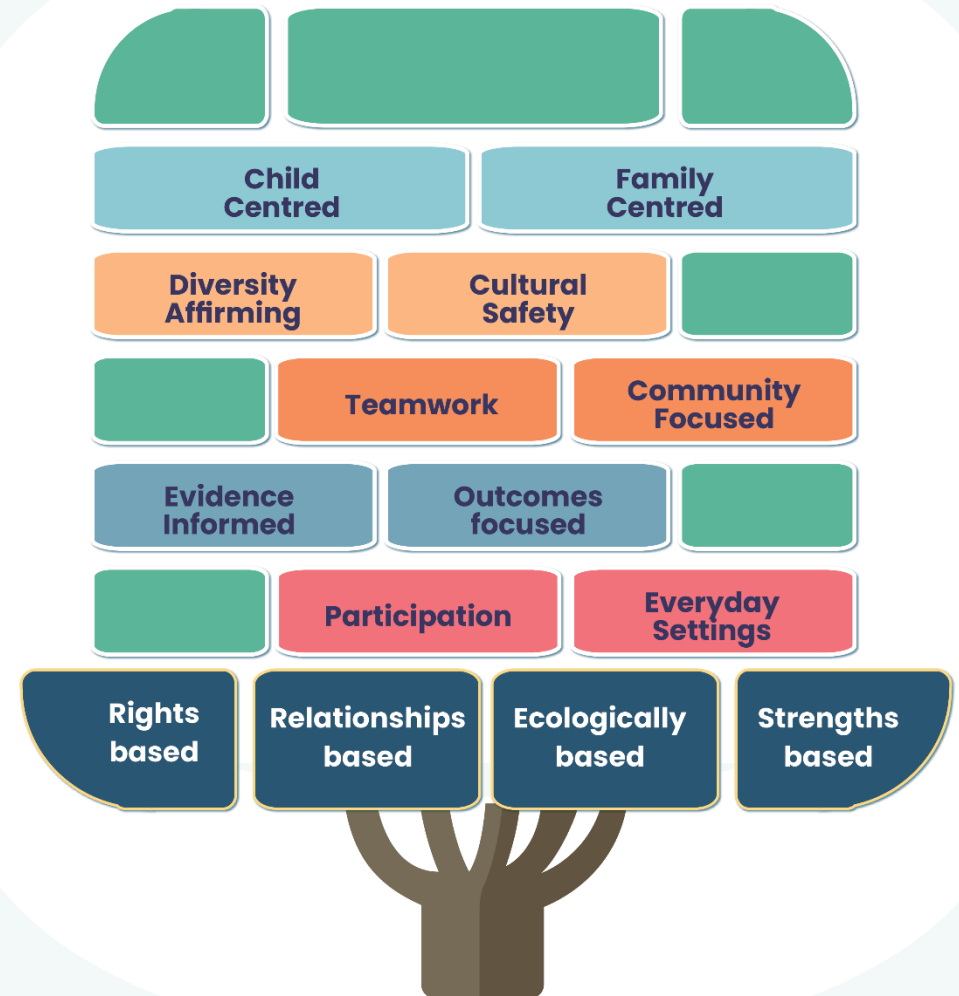
Principles and related practices

Four universal principles underpin all aspects of early childhood intervention services and supports for children with developmental concerns, delay or disability. They are:

- rights-based
- relationship-based
- strengths-based
- ecologically-based

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Principles and Practices



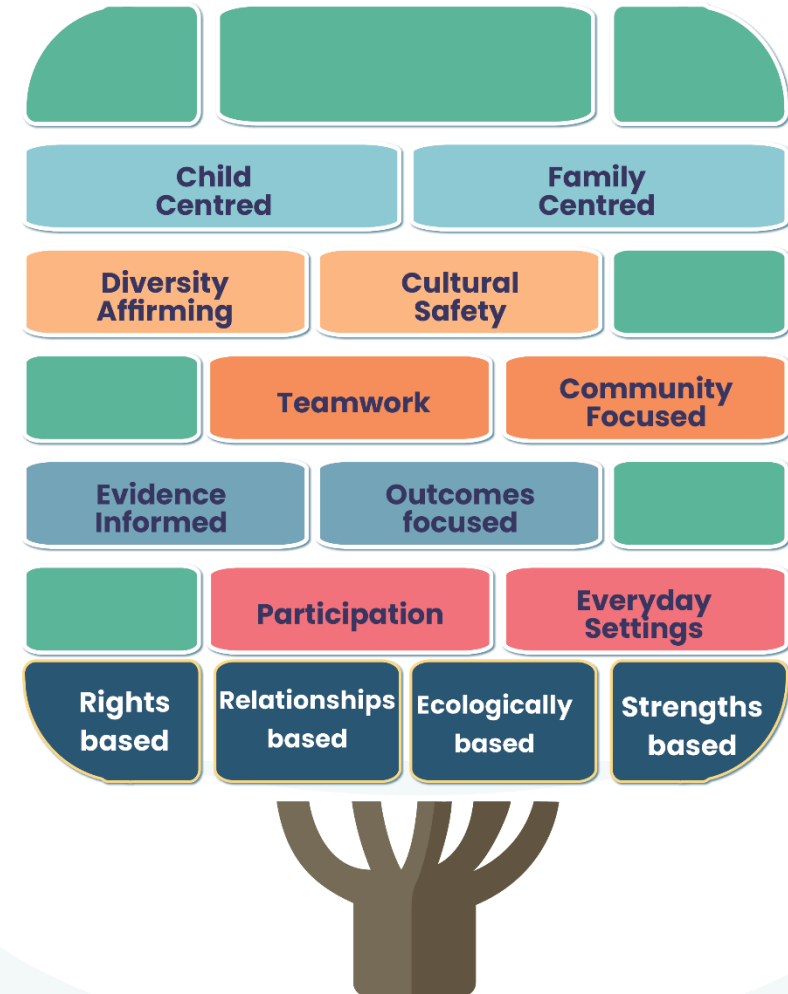
Principles and related practices

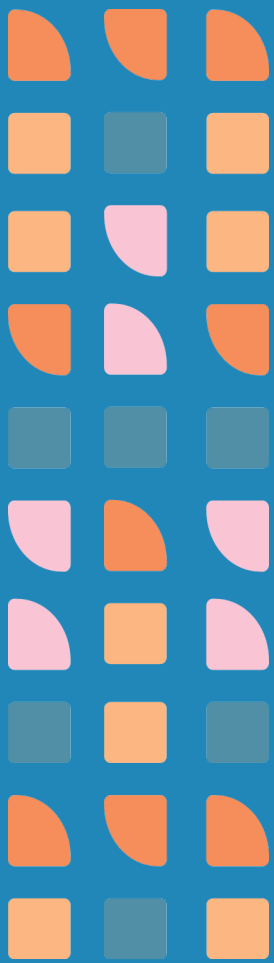
In addition to the four universal principles, best practice in early childhood intervention is also underpinned by ten key principles, grouped into five clusters:

- Child and family-centred
- Culture and diversity
- Inclusion
- Connection and collaboration
- Outcomes and evidence

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Principles and Practices





Framework resources



Family Resources



Don't forget to get to know the child. That when you start with the child and know the child... you can then integrate therapy. You can't do it the other way around. It just doesn't work.



Factsheets for families about how to talk to children about early childhood intervention

This resource was co-designed with young people with disability. It covers what young people want families to understand, do and know about early intervention.

Tools and resources



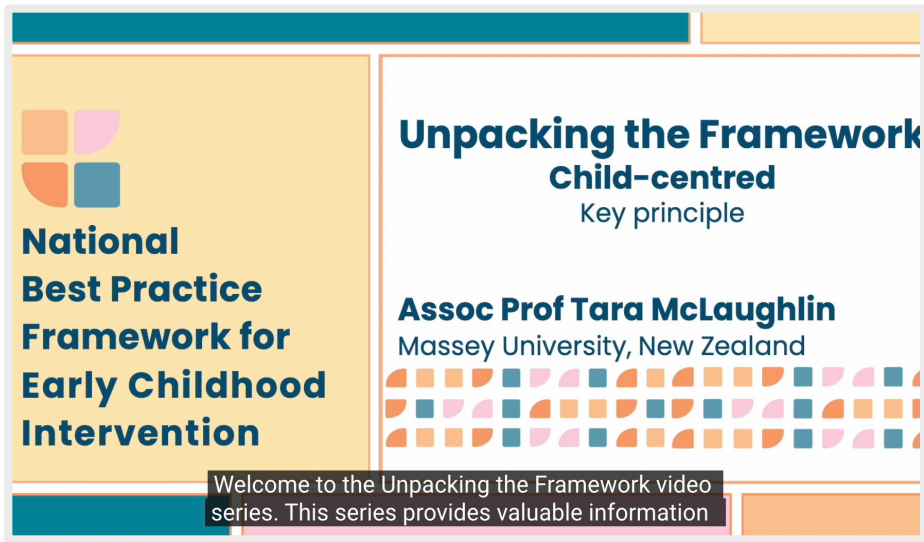
Practice Guidance

These resources include an overview of the principle and rationale, and a list of related practices and links to resources

Looks like, Doesn't look like

These fact sheets assist with reflection on best practice in ECI processes

Tools and resources



Videos: International and national perspectives



Podcasts: hearing from families and professionals

Outcome Measures



Suite of resources to support implementation of the Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention

These resources provide guidance about selecting outcome measures and information about tools that are appropriate for:

- children
- parents, carers and families
- practitioners and services



Decision making guide

Parents, carers and families have many decisions to make over time, including:

- what goals to focus on
- what strategies to use
- who should be on the ECI team
- what form support should take
- where services should be provided
- how intensive the services should be



The Framework is not just for ECI practitioners and families. It has been designed with a wide group of users in mind.

- We also think it is **vital that this information informs Thriving Kids** and also the way early childhood intervention is funded and structured under the NDIS.
- **This framework is designed to be really practical** and is for everyone involved in helping children to develop, so that they thrive.



The Framework and resources are all publicly available

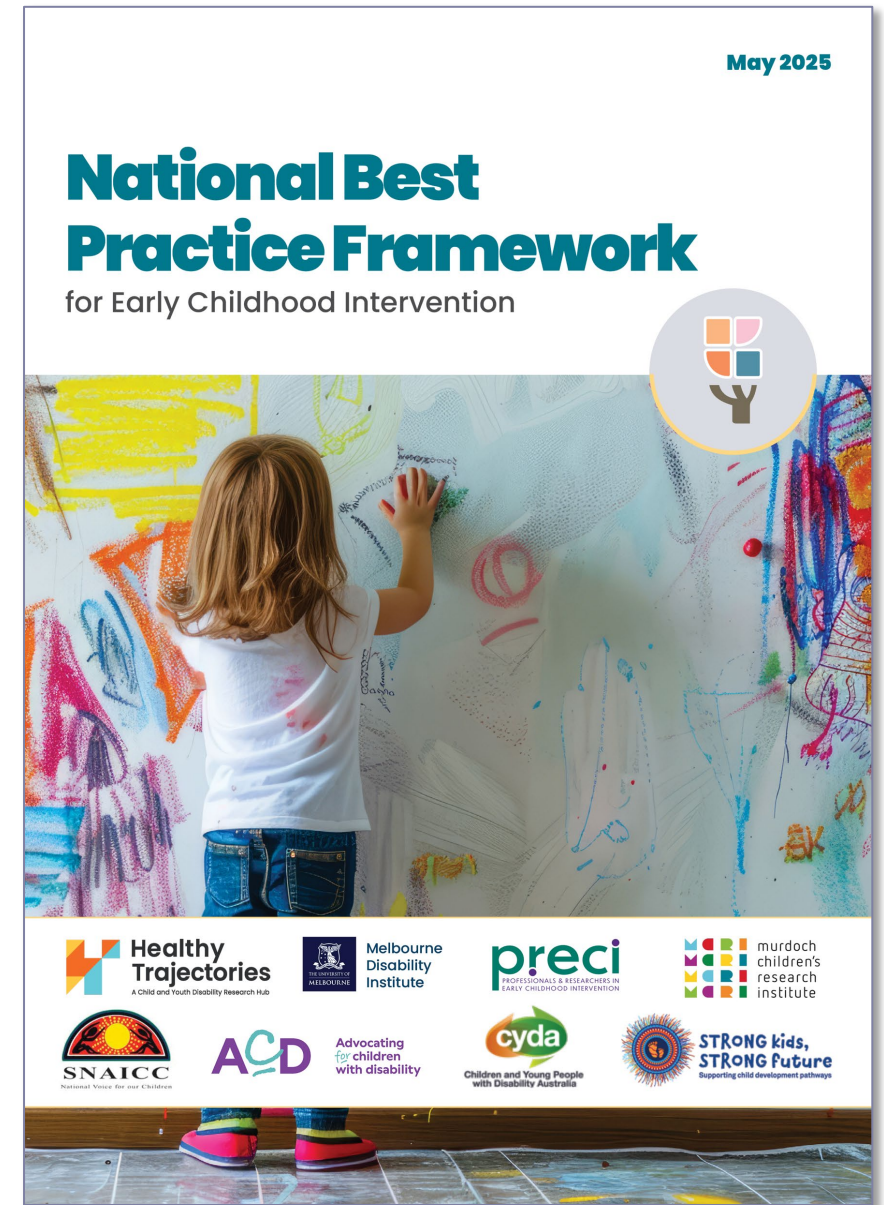
Read more on our website

<https://healthy-trajectories.com.au/eci-framework/>



Contact us

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Thank you



**Healthy
Trajectories**
A Child and Youth Disability Research Hub

preci
PROFESSIONALS & RESEARCHERS IN
EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

A logo icon consisting of a 4x4 grid of small squares in various colors (blue, green, yellow, orange, red, purple).
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institute**



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**Advocating
for children
with disability**



**Melbourne
Disability
Institute**



**STRONG kids,
STRONG future**
Supporting child development pathways