Video 1: Your role in inclusion

Welcome to Early Years Connect. Early Years Connect is about helping educators to support children with complex additional needs participate in early childhood education and care services in Queensland.

In other words, it’s about inclusion.

Whether you have a lot of experience in this area, a little, or none, Early Years Connect has resources to suit everyone working in Early Childhood Education and Care.

This video will explain what early years connect is aiming to achieve.

**Valuing and including every child**

Diversity is part of our everyday life. Our communities are full of children and families with varying strength and abilities. Every child in your service will have particular needs, whether it’s a special diet, extra rest time, or physical support to join in the program.

Meeting the needs of every child is the work of Early Childhood Education and Care services.

**The rights of all children**

Children with disability and complex additional needs have the right to fully participate in meaningful ways in Early Childhood Education and Care services. If a family would like to enroll your child in your service, then you have an obligation to make that possible. In fact there are laws and standards that require you to do so. That’s because as a society we value the rights of every person to belong and participate.

**What can Early Childhood Education and Care services do?**

When you plan your program, you consider what will work for all the children in your care. It’s the same for children with disability and complex additional needs. Although there may be more people involved in the planning process, you don’t have to create inclusive programs alone. Actually, it’s impossible to do it alone.

To create an inclusive program, you need plenty of information and advice from each child’s family. You need to form a good relationship with each family and you might need input from allied health professionals or other agencies included with the child and the family to help you support the child.

This is a team effort all directed at helping each child fulfil his or her greatest potential.