

Early Childhood - NDIS

NAVIGATING THE NDIS - THE PLANNING MEETING

What can I expect at the planning meeting?

At the planning meeting your child's planner will find out what kind of funded support your child will need.

They may ask about:

- Personal details
- How you and your child are managing everyday activities
- What type of services your child is currently using
- The type of supports and equipment that are needed
- The goals you and your child want to achieve
- How you would like to manage your child's plan

The planner will also ask to see any reports or letters you brought with you and will complete a functional assessment of your child's skills and abilities called the 'Pedi-CAT'. The Pedi-CAT is used to contribute to information gathered by the NDIA to understand how a child's developmental delay impacts on their ability to participate in daily life activities compared to other children of a similar age.

The Pedi-CAT is not the only source of information used to understand the needs of a child. An Early Childhood Partner will consider all information provided by the family, professionals and in some cases may apply other functional assessments.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can attend the planning meeting?

Your child, yourself and/or your partner (parents/caregivers), and anyone you would like to invite to accompany you. You can choose a family member, a friend, a health professional, or anyone who can support you in the process.

Where will the meeting take place?

The meeting will usually be at your local ECEI Partner's office; however, you can request for the planner to come to your house.

How long will the meeting last?

The meeting will generally last between 1-2 hours depending on the complexity of your child's needs and family situation.

Who will manage the funding?

Your planner will ask you during the meeting who you would like to manage the funding in your child's plan. You can choose to have the funding managed by the NDIA, a Plan Manager or by yourself. Read more about managing funding in the next factsheet, 'Navigating Fund Management'.

What is a Pedi-CAT?^{1,2}

The Pedi-CAT is a functional assessment where the planner will ask you about your child's skills and abilities, and see how it compares to other children of a similar age. It will include things such as their verbal skills, mobility, self-care, social interaction and behaviour.

Remember

Bring anything related to your child's needs to the meeting

This could include letters or reports from health professionals, such as child health nurses, paediatricians, speech pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, etc.

You should also take any documents you prepared for your child, such as your child's weekly schedule or planning [booklet](#).³

Ask questions

Write down all the questions you may have for the planner before the meeting and don't hesitate to interrupt if you're unsure about something.

The language of the NDIS

Your child's planner may use some NDIS related terms during the meeting that you're unfamiliar with. You can read the 'Navigating Terminology' factsheets on some common NDIS and Early Childhood Early Intervention terms so you understand what the planner is discussing.

It may also be helpful to attend an NDIS information session in your area before the meeting.

1. <https://www.pedicat.com/>
2. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/applying-access-ndis/how-apply/information-support-your-request/providing-evidence-disability-children/pedi-cat-frequently-asked-questions>
3. <https://www.acd.org.au/ndis-support/ndis-planning-workbook/>