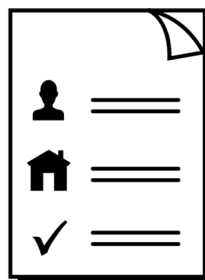


Disability and education in Australia

Ideas from families and carers

Summary



Easy Read



Children and Young People
with Disability Australia

About this booklet



This booklet is from Children and Young People with Disability Australia or CYDA.

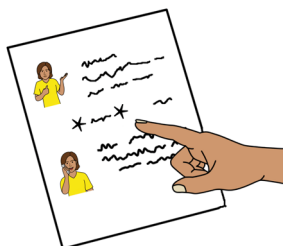


This booklet is written in a way that is easy to understand.



You can read more information about this topic on our website at

bit.ly/CYDA_Family



We add a star before and after ***hard words***. Then we explain what the words mean.



You can ask someone to help you read and understand this booklet.



Contact information is at the end of this booklet.

About our research



We do ***research*** about the ***experiences*** of children and young people with disability at school.



Research means

- we ask questions to learn more about something



- we write a report about what we find.



Experiences means

- what happens to you



- how you feel.



We do this research over the years to see if things have changed.

What do we know about this topic?



Many students with disability are more likely to be

- ***segregated***



- ***suspended***



- ***expelled*.**



Segregated means to keep away from others.



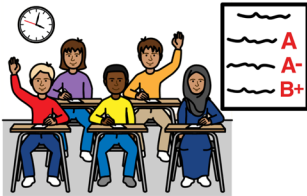
Suspended means you cannot go to your school for a short time.



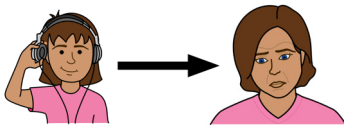
Expelled means you cannot go back to that school.



Over the last 15 years students with disability have reached higher levels at school than before.



But these levels are lower than children and young people without disability.



These experiences can affect students with disability for a long time.

About our survey



We did a ***survey*** to hear ideas from families with young children with disability.

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A survey is a list of questions about a topic.



The survey was done across Australia from May to August 2022.

Survey questions



The survey questions were about

- what services and supports students used at school



- what people thought of the services and supports



- what people thought of staff training



- whether students had been ***excluded*** or ***bullied*** at school.

Excluded means to be left out.



Bullied means a person or people hurt someone lots of times.

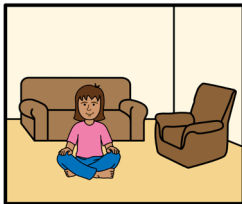
What we found



We found that most families and carers felt welcome in schools.

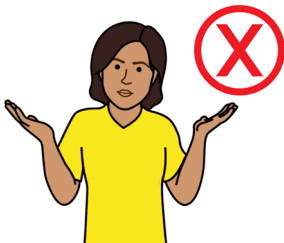


But about 1 in 3 families felt that school staff did not have the right training to support students with disability.



We found

- some schools ask families to keep their child at home at different times



- it is hard for some families to get their child into some schools.



About 1 in 3 families said their child was not included in all activities at school.

For example, excursions and camps.



Bullying

About half the families said their child had been bullied at school.



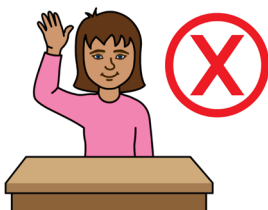
The bullying included

- mean words
- physical harm.



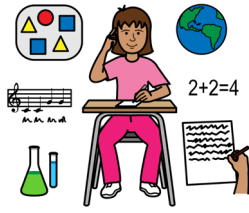
Restrictive practices

About 1 in 4 families said their child experienced ***restrictive practices*** at school.



Restrictive practices means someone cannot do what they want to do.

Plans

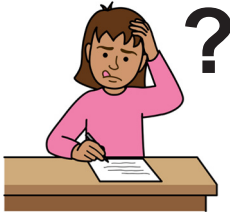


Many families said their child had an education plan.



But they felt the plan

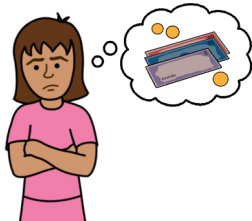
- was not followed



- did not help their child.



Many families said their child had an NDIS plan.



But it was hard to use the funding to get support at school.

Complaints



More than half the families made a ***complaint*** about things that happened at school.



A complaint means you tell someone you are not happy.



These families were worried about what might happen if they made a complaint.



Most families were not happy with how the complaint was managed.

Advocacy



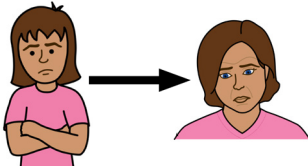
Many families have to ***advocate*** to get the right supports for their child at school.



Advocate means you work hard to get what you need and want.



Some children had very bad experiences at school.

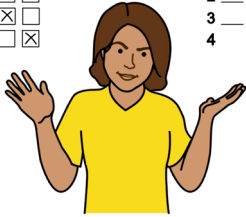


These experiences have caused harm that may last for a long time.

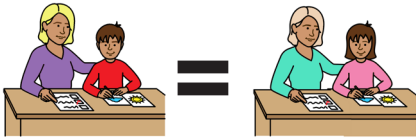
Our summary

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Not much has changed since our last survey in 2019.



Children with disability need more support to

- get equal access to education



- have good experiences at school.



More information

For more information contact CYDA.



Call 03 9417 1025



Visit cyda.org.au



Email info@cyda.org.au



If you need help to speak or listen, the National Relay Service can help you make a call.

Call 1800 555 660

Visit accesshub.gov.au/nrs-helpdesk



If you need help with other languages, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service.

Visit tisonational.gov.au

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