

Transition Tip: **Plan Ahead**

Transition occurs when a child moves to a new setting, e.g. from home to childcare, or from preschool to school.

Equipment cannot usually be transferred from one childcare provider, preschool or school to another.

To ensure equipment is in place for a child or student to participate at a new site, forward planning is required.

Parents and/or staff should **contact the new site as early as possible** to plan for equipment need.



Helpful Hints for Schools and Centres

Staff Training

Staff who are trained to assist a child or student with equipment should be identified to ensure that equipment is used responsibly.

Maintenance

Staff should keep a record of **when** equipment needs to be checked and **who** is authorised to undertake maintenance or equipment repair. DECD (SERU) has a maintenance schedule and advises sites when servicing will occur. Sites are required to notify SERU of damage and repairs are negotiated.

Equipment Providers

In South Australia there are **three** equipment providers to assist children and students with disabilities to participate in childcare, preschool and school. They are:

Inclusive Directions

Phone: 8165 2900
Email: resources@directions.org.au
Website: www.directions.org.au

Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) – Special Education Resource Unit (SERU)

Phone: 8235 2871
Email: admin@seru.sa.edu.au
Website: <http://web.seru.sa.edu.au>

Catholic Education South Australia (CESA)

Phone: 8301 6600
Email: margaret.bressan@cesa.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.cesa.catholic.edu.au

For Independent schools, contact the Principal of the school or for more information contact:

Association of Independent Schools South Australia (AISSA)

Phone: 8179 1400
Email: macleodl@ais.sa.edu.au
Website: www.ais.sa.edu.au

For an individual child or student's home and community experience contact:

Domiciliary Equipment Service (DES)

Phone: 8193 1232
Email: des.frontdesk@dcsi.sa.gov.au
Website: <http://des.domcare.sa.gov.au/des>
OR

The National Disability Insurance Agency [NDIA (DisabilityCare Australia)]

Phone: 1800 800 110
Website: <http://www.disabilitycareaustralia.gov.au>

Equipment providers:

- Have equipment in storage
- Purchase equipment that is supplied to childcare, preschool and/or school, or
- Provide funding to the childcare, preschool or school to purchase the equipment.

Mostly equipment is loaned and in some cases trial loan is available. These organisations should also be contacted for advice about repairs, maintenance, modifications and if equipment is no longer required.

Equipment Provision for Children and Students with Disabilities

Childcare | Preschool | School



**Government of
South Australia**

This brochure provides information about obtaining equipment to improve access and participation in the curriculum for children and students with disabilities at childcare, preschool or school. It can be used to support discussion between parents/carers of children with disabilities and staff at childcare, preschool or school.

If you require equipment for home or community use, contact the Domiciliary Equipment Service (DES) or the National Disability Insurance Agency [NDIA (DisabilityCare Australia)] for more information.

What is equipment?

Equipment for children and students with disabilities in childcare, preschool and education settings includes:

- Personal care and mobility items e.g. electronic change tables, activity chairs, hoists, slings, commodes, standing frames
- Building and facility modifications eg. handrails, ramps
- Assistive technologies for learning e.g. computers, tablets, software programs, adapted toys.

Process for obtaining equipment

STEP 1 Family, school staff, childcare staff recognise a need for equipment.

STEP 2 The school, preschool, or childcare submits a request to an allied health professional (prescriber) e.g. occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech therapist.

STEP 3 The allied health professional (prescriber) assesses the needs of children, recommends the appropriate equipment and provides the school, preschool or childcare staff with a prescription.

STEP 4 The school or childcare provider makes an equipment request to the provider. The request comprises two parts:

- Submission of the prescription by the allied health professional
- Application for funding of the equipment or request through school for equipment.

STEP 5 The provider provides equipment or contributes towards the cost of the equipment.

STEP 6 The allied health professional (prescriber) provides relevant training in the use of equipment.

STEP 7 The allied health professional (prescriber) reviews the equipment need and its use periodically.

Equipment provision processes for children and students with disabilities

BORROWER	PRESCRIBER	PROVIDER
Where the equipment is located	An allied health professional assesses the need, makes recommendations, prescribes equipment, oversees its use, trains staff and reviews periodically e.g. occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech therapist.	Who provides and funds equipment
Childcare Licensed childcare and some other approved programs in South Australia including out of school hours care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allied health professional e.g. occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech therapist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Directions Special Equipment Program
Preschools Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) and some Catholic and Lutheran preschools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECD via allied health professional e.g. occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech therapist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECD Special Education Resource Unit (SERU)
Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Education and Child Development (DECD) • Catholic Education in South Australia (CESA) • Independent schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECD via allied health professional prescription e.g. occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech therapist • Private allied health professional • Private allied health professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECD Special Education Resource Unit (SERU) • CESA arrangements vary. For further information please contact the school principal or Catholic Education office. • Independent schools' arrangements vary. For further information please contact the school principal.