



IDEA PATHWAY

From Playgroup to Preschool

The **IDEA Pathway** program will address the early learning needs of young children from diverse backgrounds by offering families a pathway into early childhood education.

Children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) background remain significantly unrepresented in early childhood services due to:

- language barriers,
- parental worries about cultural appropriateness of services,
- the complexity of the system, and
- limited support available in their home language.

To address these barriers Ethnic Community Services Co-operative has developed the **Integrated Diversity Early Education Access (IDEA) Pathway** a holistic program aiming to boost school readiness of children from CALD backgrounds by increasing enrolment of these children in formal Early Childhood Educational (ECE) services.

IDEA Pathway will support CALD families to gain an understanding of formal early years education in Australia, enrol and settle their child into an ECE program.

It will also link families with local ECE providers to facilitate positive dialogue, development of trust and to build the capacity of services to provide educational excellence to CALD children.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: ☎ 02 9569 1288 ✉ biculturalsupport@ecsc.org.au



Education



Ethnic Community
Services Co-operative
A voice for diversity and inclusion

IDEA PATHWAY

From Playgroup to Preschool

1

Mobile Playgroup

FREE 6-week playgroup program (2 hours a week) delivered in home language by bilingual/bicultural Early Childhood Educators to prepare participating children for entry into early years education programs.



2

Family Mentoring

FREE integrated program of information sessions and mentoring for parents and families delivered in home language, during 6-week playgroup sessions.

3

Provider & Community Capacity Building

Linking parents and families to early childhood education providers, building capacity to respond to needs and concerns of CALD families and building the parental trust necessary to increase enrolments.



4

Transition to Early Education Service

Bicultural/bilingual educator provides support during the initial period of the child's enrolment in a formal early childhood setting.



Ethnic Community Services Co-operative - Bicultural Support Program

ECSC has over **40 years' experience** in supporting the inclusion of children from CALD backgrounds in Early Childhood Services across NSW through the Bicultural Support Program. Our Bicultural Support educators are trained in children's services and represent over 100 different cultures and languages, including Indigenous languages. The Bicultural Support Program has developed a range of specialised multi-bilingual resources especially produced for use in early childhood settings to support **children, families and educators**.



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