

Thriving Kids in the Northern Territory



Support starts with noticing

If you're concerned about your child's development, Thriving Kids can help you understand what support is available and where to start.

Thriving Kids will help children aged 8 years and under with developmental delay or autism and low to moderate support needs access support earlier, when it can make the biggest difference.

What is changing?

From 1 October 2026, the Northern Territory will begin introducing Thriving Kids. There are no changes for children already on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) until 1 January 2028.

Existing NDIS participants will continue to be considered under arrangements that apply to their plan and reassessment.

From 1 October 2026, children with developmental delay or autism and low to moderate support needs who are seeking support may be directed to Thriving Kids rather than a new NDIS plan.

The NDIS will continue to support eligible children with permanent and significant disability or higher support needs. Thriving Kids is not replacing the NDIS.

How Thriving Kids helps children and families

Thriving Kids will provide:

- earlier help when developmental concerns emerge
- support based on a child's needs, without waiting for a formal diagnosis.
- more support delivered through everyday settings and closer to home
- a coordinated, child-and family-centred approach
- culturally responsive services for Aboriginal people and diverse communities

Support services available

Thriving Kids is designed for the Territory and will deliver culturally responsive supports through a 'no wrong door' approach, ensuring families can access help wherever they first seek it.

Supports and services will include:

- information and advice about child development and autism
- parenting and family programs and support
- peer support and community-based early intervention activities
- targeted developmental support when needed.

Where services will be delivered

Thriving Kids will build on existing services available right across the Territory, where children live, learn and play. Expansion will be staged and shaped by local needs, demand and workforce availability.

Does my child need support?

You know your child best.

You may seek support if you have a concern about your child's speech, movement, behaviour, play, learning, communication or daily function.

If you need support now

You do not need to wait for Thriving Kids to seek support or assistance. If you have concerns about your child's development, support is already available.

You can:

- speak with your child health nurse or family doctor (General Practitioner GP)
- talk with your child's teacher, early childhood educator or childcare provider
- discuss concerns with other professionals supporting your family, including allied health professionals, case managers or support workers.

How to get help

You don't need a diagnosis before asking for help.

- Visit the Thriving Kids Information and Resources Hub
- Call the Thriving Kids Autism Helpline on 1300 654 789 available 8am – 7pm Monday to Friday
- Call the National phoneline on 1800 882 436 available 7am to midnight, 7 days a week including video call.

You can also seek advice from your GP, health professional, child health nurse, early childhood services, schools and allied health services.

Find out more

Thriving Kids Information and Resources Hub
raisingchildren.net.au/thrivingkids

Thriving Kids in the Northern Territory

dpssc.nt.gov.au/community-programs-support/thriving-kids-in-the-nt

Autism and developmental delay: support for children 8 and under

nt.gov.au/community/parents-and-families/thriving-kids-support-scheme-for-child-development

