

1. My child's rights



- Every child has the right to inclusive education.
- Schools must make reasonable adjustments.
- Discrimination based on disability is unlawful.
- You can request support without needing a diagnosis.
- You have the right to be involved in decisions.



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2. Communicating my child's preferences



Consider these prompts with your child to keep with you as a reminder:

- **I communicate using...**
e.g., speech, AAC, gestures, Auslan, Key Word Sign.
- **My Strengths...**
e.g., creative, kind, loves music.

- **I need support with...**
e.g., transitions, sensory input.
- **My calming strategies...**
e.g., quiet space, weighted blanket.
- **What works best for me...**
e.g., visual instructions, movement breaks.



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3. Meeting prep checklist



- **Bring:** recent reports, goals, communication log, any goals you have for the meeting.
- Know your child's current supports and needs.
- **Ask curious questions:** 'What does that support look like in the classroom?' 'Can we make this more inclusive?'
- Ask for minutes or notes afterward.



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4. Escalation steps – to support you through resolving issues



Step 1: Speak with the teacher.

Step 2: Contact the school principal.

Step 3: Contact the education office (Department for Education, Catholic Schools SA, AISSA).

Step 4: Lodge a complaint with Education Standards Board.

Step 5: Formal complaint with Equal Opportunity SA.

Step 6: Formal complaint with Ombudsman SA.



5. Wellbeing support for you



- Be kind to yourself. Advocacy can be hard and emotionally draining, especially over time.
- It's okay to ask for help – you're not alone.
- Connect with other families or support groups.
- Use respite or carer services when needed.
- Encourage self-care: rest, hobbies and set boundaries.
- **Crisis contacts:** Lifeline, Kids Helpline, Carer Gateway.

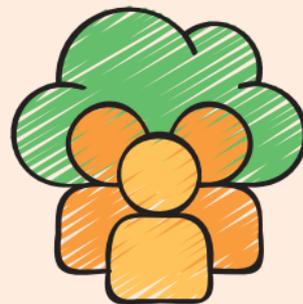


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6. Building Partnerships and collaborating with educators



- Be clear, respectful, and consistent.
- Share your child's strengths and needs.
- Ask to be involved in planning for your child.
- Follow up after meetings.
- Provide feedback when things work well.
- Celebrate progress and success together.

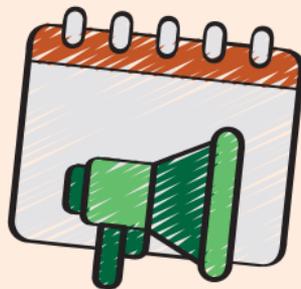


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7. Advocacy reminders



- You can be your child's strongest advocate.
- Trust your instincts and parental knowledge.
- Keep records and ask questions.
- Follow your child's lead and consider their preferences and choices.
- Know your rights and use them.
- Advocacy is a journey – take one step at a time.



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