

Diverse learning needs resources

The following resources may support your program. As parent and home educator, you are best placed to determine the suitability of these resources for your individual child.

[Useful contacts](#) | **[Autism Spectrum Disorder useful contacts](#)** | **[Support for students with disability](#)** | **[Information sources](#)** | **[Technology resources](#)** | **[Other resources](#)** | **[Mental health support](#)**

Useful contacts

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Queensland Government)

<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability> helps people with a disability and their families access the support and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life.

QUT Health Clinics <http://www.healthclinics.qut.edu.au/> offer a range of services (often without out-of-pocket expense) in the areas of nutrition and dietetics (including the PEACH program for children) and podiatry.

Autism Hub and Reading Centre <https://ahrc.eq.edu.au/> provides specialist advice to educators and parents on how to improve engagement, teach reading and support readers, including strategies for students with dyslexia. This website includes an extensive professional learning calendar with face-to-face and web conferencing options.

SPELD Queensland <http://www.speld.org.au/> is a not-for-profit organisation offering support to parents of children with learning difficulties. They engage specialist teachers and have a psychologist as part of the assessment team. SPELD runs workshops with speakers from the professional community and overseas; has an *Advisory Help Line*; runs intensive reading programs and provides resource advice, including information regarding assistive technology.

Autism Spectrum Disorder useful contacts

Asperger Services Australia <http://www.asperger.asn.au/> operates throughout Brisbane. This registered charity supports the Asperger community by conducting seminars and holiday activities, providing professional speakers, online forums and regular events for members to connect with others. The cost of membership varies and access to some is free.

Autism Hub <https://ahrc.eq.edu.au/> aims to help students and their families access the wide range of ASD support services and programs offered by the Queensland Government and non-government agencies through the provision of information and professional development. Autism coaches are located at the Hub and operate in seven regions across Queensland.

Autism Queensland <https://autismqld.com.au/> is a not-for-profit community based organisation dedicated to creating a life of participation, opportunity and choice for people living with ASD. They provide specialised education, therapy and support services for children and their families.

Bond University Centre for Autism Spectrum Disorder (CASD)

<https://bond.edu.au/researchers/research-strengths/faculty-research-centres/centre-autism-spectrum-disorder> is a multidisciplinary research and education facility dedicated to assisting people on the autism spectrum, including their families, caregivers, educators and other professionals involved in their support. CASD supports the community through dissemination of research findings and provision of professional education initiatives.



Griffith University Autism Centre of Excellence (ACE) <https://www.griffith.edu.au/education/autism-centre-excellence> seeks to support learning for people with autism across their lifespan, from early childhood to further education and employment. The centre works collaboratively with the states and federal governments' education, health and communities portfolios. Their mission is to provide training to parents and professionals and to undertake research to expand knowledge about autism and autism intervention. Their website provides information about events, seminars and the latest research information.

Support for students with disability

Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/forms/sy040> is a payment from the Australian Government Department of Human Services (Centrelink) which helps families who have students who are unable to attend a state or non-state school on a daily basis because of geographical distance, disability or health related issues.

My Future: My Life <http://www.myfuturemylife.com.au/> is a strategy which is a key element of the Queensland Government's commitment to supporting young people with a disability transition effectively from school to adult life. Eligible young people in Years 11 and 12 (or equivalent) can receive assistance to plan future options and access informal and funded disability support options including NDIS.

National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland (NDIS)

<https://myplace.ndis.gov.au/ndisstorefront/index.html> will progressively roll out across Queensland over a three year period from January 2016. People will continue to receive the State or Federal Government funded disability services they currently receive until they become an NDIS participant with an approved plan.

Information sources

Queensland Government – Disability specific resources <https://education.qld.gov.au/students/students-with-disability/succeeding-with-disability/specific-resources> is a useful starting point for educators, parents and carers to gain information regarding the availability of disability specific resources and support. The list is not exhaustive and is indicative of the options, services and resources available in Queensland and is listed in alphabetical order.

BetterHealth Channel <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/conditionsandtreatment> is a Victorian State Government website providing information about a wide variety of conditions and treatments. The information may assist in developing understanding of a particular condition or diagnosis, in addition to advice about where to get help. Many articles on the website are podcast.

Education Directorate, ACT Government

https://www.education.act.gov.au/teaching_and_learning/learning-difficulties/resources provides informative factsheets about learning difficulties, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia and Dyscalculia.

Technology resources

Apps can be sourced or purchased through an app store appropriate to your device's operating system.

People with disability apps and tools (Queensland Government) <http://www.qld.gov.au/disability/apps-tools/index.html> provides a shortlist of free and low-cost apps which may be useful to people with a medical condition.

Queensland Government – Aids, equipment and assistive technologies

<https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/adults/getting-help/aids-equipment-assistive-technologies> has information about resources designed to assist people with disabilities.

Queensland Government – Assistive technology resources

<https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/adults/getting-help/aids-equipment-assistive-technologies/aids-equipment-resources>. This list of general assistive technology resources is for people with a disability and their families, carers and friends, as well as for service providers and education professionals.



Other resources

State Library Queensland <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/services/membership/how-to-join> In addition to books from your home and local libraries, some excellent books and eBooks are available through the State Library. Residents outside of Brisbane can upgrade their online membership to an RLQ membership for access to State Library Services through delivery to regional libraries. The [TumbleBook Library](#) is recommended for children learning to read as it has supportive activities and games. It can be accessed through the library and RLQ membership.

Raising Children – the Australian parenting website <https://raisingchildren.net.au/> (supported by the Australian Government: Department of Social Services) provides information about services and support, rights and laws, NDIS, play and learning, guide to disabilities, children with disabilities and family life.

Mental health support

Kids Matter <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/early-childhood/resources-support-childrens-mental-health/mental-health> is an Australian early childhood mental health initiative which provides information about supporting children with additional needs. Web links to support networks are also provided.

Queensland Government – Keys to good mental health in children <https://www.qld.gov.au/disability/children-young-people/keys-to-good-mental-health> looks at keys to good mental health in children and provides links to support services.