

# Understanding "Thriving Kids" (And Getting The Most Out Of It)

## What it means for schools and teachers

The **Thriving Kids** reform is part of a government initiative to make changes to the NDIS and early childhood support systems. It represents a shift in how 0-9 year olds with autism and developmental delay are supported.

## A Shift Toward School and Health Based Support

**Younger kids with developmental delay and autism will no longer be part of the NDIS.** They will no longer have individual funding and the focus for support will (again) be on schools and families through state health and education systems.

- **Federal NDIS** → focusing on children with more significant and permanent disability
- **State systems** → taking a greater role in early and developmental support

## Increased Focus on Building Capacity

A key direction of Thriving Kids is supporting the adults around the child.

For schools, this means:

- building teacher and education assistant confidence
- embedding strategies within everyday classroom practice
- supporting students within their natural learning environment

Rather than relying on external services, there is a shift toward support happening within the classroom context.



Realise Ability



## Changes to Therapy Models

The reform signals a move away from:

ongoing, individual (1:1) therapy

And toward:

classroom-based and consultative support

collaboration between therapists and educators

group and targeted interventions

practical strategies embedded into teaching

This means therapy is increasingly focused on supporting learning in context, rather than separate from it.

## How Realise Ability Can Support Schools

Realise Ability understands the increasing demands this will place on schools and the importance of practical, classroom-relevant support.

We are local and accessible and can support schools through:

- collaborative consultation with teachers and learning support teams
- student observations (where appropriate)
- practical, realistic strategies that fit within teaching routines
- targeted therapy aligned with classroom goals
- support for students, families and educators during system change

Our approach aligns with the direction of Thriving Kids by focusing on:

building capacity within the classroom

supporting teachers and education assistants

ensuring strategies are practical and achievable

Working with us, will make your school "Thriving Kids" ready!