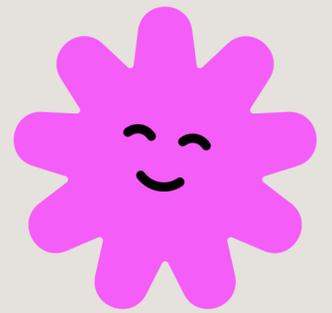




Developed in partnership with **Neurominded**



Your Inclusive Childcare Checklist: What to Ask, Look For, and Trust.

Finding the right childcare service takes more than a gut feeling: it takes the right questions. Use this checklist as a guide when you're visiting or researching services. You don't need to ask every question word-for-word. Some information may be readily available on a service's website, policies, or enrolment information.

Staff Experience & Training:

- Educators who have training or experience in inclusive practices and supporting diverse learning needs
- Experience with children who have similar needs to yours
- Willingness to collaborate with therapists, inclusion professionals, or other specialists supporting your child
- Staff use strength-based, respectful language about children

Environment & Sensory Support:

- Calm, predictable routines and clear transition supports
- Access to quiet or low-stimulus spaces if children need a break
- Visual aids and communication supports (e.g. picture schedules, AAC tools)
- Safe outdoor areas for movement, running, and climbing
- Access to movement as needed throughout the day

Communication & Collaboration:

- Open, respectful communication style with families
- Educators show curiosity about your child's strengths, interests, and ways of communicating
- Regular communication about your child's experiences, strengths, and progress
- Willingness to co-create support plans or Individual Learning Plans
- Educators check in proactively, not only when there's a problem

Adaptability & Support Structures:

- Educators are flexible and willing to adapt activities to support different ways of learning and participating
- Support available for toileting, feeding, or mobility if needed
- Clear, written inclusion and reasonable adjustment policies
- Flexible seating and participation options available

Peer Interaction & Inclusion:

- Educators actively support positive peer relationships and help children feel like they belong
- Staff model inclusive language and behaviour for all children
- Mixed-age or small group options available if needed

Transparency & Trust Signals:

- Clear behaviour support and escalation policies you can read
- Staff welcome direct questions and answer them openly
- Families of children with diverse needs speak positively about their experience with the service

Emotional Safety & Gut Feel:

- The space feels emotionally safe and genuinely welcoming
- Staff speak about your child with warmth, curiosity, and respect
- You feel genuinely heard and respected when raising questions or concerns

Overview:

Remember **no service** will tick every box, and that's okay. What you're really listening for is whether the team is open, respectful, and genuinely interested in getting it right for your family.

There are no wrong questions. A genuinely inclusive service will welcome curiosity, collaboration, and conversations about how to support your child to thrive.

