

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS FACT SHEET

IVSC (innate variations of sex characteristics)

Definition: Describes a person with innate genetic, hormonal or physical atypical sex characteristics that do not fit typical medical notions of male or female bodies, can be observed at any stage of life.



Points to remember

1. **IVSC** and transgender are not the same thing (though intersex people can be transgender. Innate means 'born with' — it is not something someone becomes.
2. Normalise Intersex Bodies; all bodies are different, not all bodies look the same, it's important to look after your body and private parts.
3. Understand physical limitations due to co-morbidities like anosmia where safety adjustments are required.
4. Get to know the child through understanding how their variation and/or co-morbidities impact their learning, ability to create relationships and how they feel safe.
5. Some children will experience trauma associated with **IVSC** in educational settings (see psycho-social impacts below) leading to disengagement or withdrawal.
6. Offer referral pathways to parents/caregivers to organisations that have peer support and or counselling for children with variations to their sex characteristics and their parents/caregivers.
7. Take opportunities to share knowledge and experience including intersex topics in professional practice with co-workers and other staff.



Scan here to view National Curriculum key content descriptors



Supports

- **Interlink:** a national program that is federally funded — runs for 11 weeks for young people, families and allies InterLink — (ilink.net.au).
- **Working It Out: Better Lives Program** — (workingitout.org.au/better-lives).
- **IPSA:** Intersex Peer Support Australia — website resources and Facebook groups Intersex Peer Support Australia — (isupport.org.au).
- **Interaction for Health and Human Rights:** website resources — (interaction.org.au).



What can I do?

Examples:

- A safe, supportive and inclusive school community
- Consider embedding **IVSC** into the curriculum/programs
- Education on bodily autonomy

Psycho-social impacts – Programs for:

- Bullying/exclusion (from peers, school environment and curriculum)
- Reduced emotional/social learning/engagement
- Disrespectful/discriminatory language — internalized stigma