

# SHOULD MY CHILD WITH DCD PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS CARNIVALS?



**Does your child want to participate?**

**NO**

**YES**

**Do they still want to be involved somehow?**

**Are they confident and happy to participate 'as is'?**

**NO**

**YES**

**YES**

**NO**

**Talk to the school about other roles. Can they officiate? Be an organiser? Team helper?**

**It's important that if this is an event that most of the other students participate in, that conversations are had with the school - the year level coordinator, wellbeing coordinator and/or sports coordinator, so that they understand why your child doesn't want to attend/participate and allow them to offer potential solutions or alternatives.**

**Go for it!**

**But always have an exit plan. Ensure they feel safe and supported to withdraw at any point should they change their mind and make sure there is a plan as to who this is communicated to at the event and what will be done to support them.**

**An emphasis on personal bests rather than on competing against others can also support children with DCD to participate.**

**Does the school offer:  
Modified events?  
Participation-focused events?**

**For example, do they provide 'fun' events where the emphasis is on participation, not performance? If your school doesn't, ask why not!**



## Student-led inclusion initiatives

A powerful way to make the school sports environment more inclusive is to push for student-led change initiatives. If the school has Sports Captains, it could be a great opportunity for the school to involve them in workshopping some ways to make the sport environment more inclusive. They might create buddy systems or set a strong example of the importance of participation over performance through encouragement of others.

**Student-led initiatives are often far more successful!**