



Early Intervention: For Children Birth - 3 years of age

Early Intervention is a system of services that **helps infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities.**

How can Early Intervention help?

Early Intervention focuses on helping infants and toddlers learn the basic and brand-new skills that typically develop during the first three years of life, such as:

- Physical (reaching, rolling, crawling and walking)
- Cognitive (thinking, learning, solving problems)
- Communication (talking, listening, understanding)
- Social/emotional (playing, feeling secure and happy)
- Self-help (eating, dressing)

Who is eligible?

Early Intervention is for infants and toddlers who have a developmental delay or special need. An evaluation is done, with parents' consent, to see if the child has a delay in development or a disability. Children that are found eligible can receive services from birth through their third birthday.

| How do you request an evaluation? | Who can make a Referral? | What is a Developmental Delay and Disability? | What are some examples of Early Intervention Services? |
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| <p>If you believe your child isn't developing at the same pace as most children his or her age, it's a good idea to talk to your child's pediatrician.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEEK HELP EARLY- Reach out to the New Jersey Early Intervention system at 888.653.4463. A service coordinator will schedule an appointment to conduct evaluations/assessments of the child's development and possible needs. Children 3 and older can receive a referral for assistance from Project Child Find at 1.800.322.8174. <p>Evaluation and assessment services are provided at public expense with no cost to parents.</p> | <p>Parents, physicians, local educational agencies, public health facilities, other health care providers, social service agencies, hospitals and child care programs</p> <p>When making a referral individuals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain written documentation that supports the parent's agreement to refer or the parent's request that a referral not be made; • Explain the early intervention services which would be available if the referral were made and the consequences of not accessing those services. • Maintain follow up contacts with those families who initially request a referral not be made. <p>Parents consent is a required for evaluation and assessment</p> | <p>A developmental delay can occur in just one area or in a few. A global developmental delay is when a child has a delay in at least two of the areas below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cognitive skills</u> (ability to think and learn) • <u>Social and emotional skills</u> (ability to relate to other people) • <u>Speech and language skills</u> (ability to use and understand language) • <u>Fine and gross motor skills</u> (ability to use small and large muscles in the body) • <u>Activities of daily living</u> (ability to handle every day tasks) <p>Developmental disabilities are issues that kids don't outgrow, but they can make progress.</p> | <p>If an infant or child has a developmental delay or disability in one or more of the developmental areas, the child will be eligible for Early Intervention services.</p> <p>These services may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistive technology • Audiology Services • Speech and language services • Counseling and training for a family • Medical Services • Nursing Services • Nutrition Services • Occupational Therapy • Physical Therapy • Psychological Therapy |