

Early Intervention in Philadelphia (age 0-3)

There are several steps to be followed if EI services are being considered

Notice that something is different about a child

- ◆ Before contacting EI services, a person that is close to the child should notice some way that the child is not typically developing
 - ◆ A child is considered to have a developmental delay if he or she is 25% or more behind his or her peers, or 1.5 standard deviations below the means on appropriate standardized tests.
 - ◆ A child's developmental delay may also be established through an informed clinical opinion by a professional.
 - ◆ Children that have been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition that has an increased probability of developmental delay are also eligible for EI services.
 - ◆ Certain circumstances can make children eligible for developmental progress tracking, including how birth weights (under 3.3 lbs), having been cared for in a neonatal unit, having confirmed dangerous levels of lead poisoning, having been abused or neglected, or having been affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal.

Early Intervention is a program available to children ages 0-3 that are behind in typical development and would benefit from extra help. Early Intervention (EI) services are provided through the city, county, and state, and are provided at no cost to the family. EI is individualized and can include family supports, parent or caregiver education, developmental (physical, occupational, and speech) therapies, and information on how children develop. Family participation is highly valued in EI.

Contact EI

- ◆ A child can be referred to EI by a parent, a family member, a healthcare provider, or anyone who knows the child well.
 - ◆ To connect with EI services call CONNECT at 1-800-692-7288.
 - ◆ In Philadelphia, ChildLink can also connect children under 3 years to EI services at 215-731-2110.

Describe the concerns about the child to EI

- ◆ A service coordinator at either of these organizations will listen to the concerns about the child and set up a time to meet in person with the child.
- ◆ At this first meeting, the service coordinator will want to meet with any family members that know the child well that the primary caregiver wishes to include.
- ◆ The EI service coordinator has 45 days from the time the referral is made to have an initial assessment conducted.
- ◆ The service coordinator will work with the family to arrange a good time for the assessment, and the family must provide written consent in this time for the assessment to be performed.



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Have a multi-disciplinary assessment

- ◆ The child will be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary team of assessment professionals. The multi-disciplinary evaluation looks at a child's development in five key areas: cognitive, communication, physical, social/emotional, and self-care.

A child is eligible or not eligible to EI services

- ◆ Once the evaluation is complete, if the child meets the criteria to be eligible to EI services, they will begin.
- ◆ If the child is not found to be eligible, the parent or other person who knows the child can appeal the decision and ask for further evaluation

For early intervention services in Philadelphia for children ages 0-3, call Childlink at 215-685-4646

Create an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP)

- ◆ The service coordinator and other EI staff will work with the family and care providers to set up a plan for the child's EI services.
- ◆ The IFSP describes the types of services the child will receive, the outcomes that are important to the child and family, where services will be performed, and any other components that are important to the family.
- ◆ The IFSP and the whole EI process is very family centered. The service providers that the child sees will be based on the needs and the IFSP.
- ◆ These services are usually provided in the home, and are required by law to be given in a "natural environment."

For early intervention services outside of Philadelphia, call CONNECT at 1-800-692-7288

Review the IFSP

- ◆ The IFSP must be reviewed and revised (if needed) every 180 days
 - ◆ The purpose of the review is to determine if the child is making progress

Transition to preschool early intervention program

- ◆ When the child turns 3, he or she must transition from an IFSP to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and begin to receive services through a preschool.

For more information contact:
215-571-3401 or
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