

Early Intervention

Infants and Toddlers

Early Intervention has two separate programs:

- Infant and Toddler Early Intervention (Part C), for children from birth until their third birthday
- Preschool Early Intervention (Part B), for children ages three until kindergarten/first grade

This information all pertains to Infant and Toddler Early Intervention.

<h3>What is Early Intervention?</h3>	<p>Early Intervention (EI) is a program available at no cost, regardless of family income, to provide services to children who have or are at risk of developmental delays. The program is designed to be a collaboration between families and the specialists helping their children. Specialists coach parents and caregivers to help their children in their natural routines, including in early care and education settings.</p>
<h3>Who is eligible?</h3>	<p>According to state law, EI provides services to children with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a developmental delay of either of 25% of the child's chronological age or 1.5+ standard deviations below the mean OR• a determination from a specialist (Informed Clinical Opinion) OR• particular conditions with a high probability of delay, such as Down syndrome.
<h3>What services are provided?</h3>	<p>Services are available in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• physical development (ability to move, hear, and see)• cognitive development (ability to think and learn)• communication development (ability to talk, understand, and express needs)• social and emotional development (ability to relate to others)• adaptive skills (ability to eat, dress, and take care of oneself)
<h3>How do families get started?</h3> 	<p>If you suspect a child has a developmental delay, the first step is a referral for a quick screening. To make a referral, parents, child care providers, or physicians can do any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Call the statewide CONNECT line at 1-800-692-7288○ Email help@connectpa.net○ Fill out a form online (QR code at left)

When will parents or guardians hear back about the results?

If the screening raises concerns about the child's development, an evaluation will be conducted, provided that the parent or guardian provides written consent. Families should expect to have the evaluation and, if a child is eligible, the initial plan (called an Individualized Family Service Plan or IFSP) completed within 45 days from the initial referral. Services are then to begin within 14 calendar days after the IFSP is created. Please note that information about a child's eligibility will be sent to the parent or guardian, regardless of who made the referral.

Families who have not heard back in these timelines or have questions should call the Office of Child Development and Early Learning at 717-346-9320.

What if the child is close to or past their third birthday?

For children ages three until they enroll in school, the referral information is the same - please reach out to 1-800-692-7288 or email help@connectpa.net for information.

(If the child is close to 3, please still call to get the process started so there aren't delays.)

If the child is already enrolled in school, please contact your local school district.

I still have more questions.

This fact sheet was compiled by the Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, part of the Thriving PA Campaign. To sign up for more information about the campaign and our Early Intervention advocacy work, please visit www.thrivingpa.org.

For additional questions or more information about EI services in PA, we encourage you to reach out directly to the Early Intervention Program at 1-800-692-7288 or visit the website at this QR code:



pennaeyc

Pennsylvania Association for the
Education of Young Children

An Affiliate of **naeyc**


Thriving PA