

Overview of Early Intervention

(as funded in part and governed by IDEA)

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Learning Objectives

- Learn what Early Intervention (EI) is and what the benefits of EI are
- Find out what the process is after a child is referred to EI
- Hear experiences from families who have accessed EI services for their child(ren)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

The Federal Law That Governs EI

Party C Early Intervention in NJ	Part B Special Education in NJ
Statewide system of early intervention services for children ages 0-3 years, with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. Participation is voluntary.	Provides Free & Appropriate Public Education for children ages 3 – 21. Department of Education



south dakota
BIRTH TO THREE
The first three years build a lifetime

First 
Connections

Each state has a different
name for their program


CALIFORNIA
EARLY START

What is Early Intervention?

Statewide system of supports and services for families and their children **birth to age three with developmental delays or disabilities.**

Individualized to the family's concerns, priorities and resources related to their child's development.

Families & the EI System working together as partners to **“engage & exchange”**



Areas of Child Development



Adaptive:

Self-care and self-help skills to address daily needs.



Fine Motor:

Use small muscles specifically hands and fingers.



Social/Emotional:

Development of trust and emotional security, self-awareness, self-regulation and relationships with adults and other children.



Gross Motor:

Use of large muscles like arms, legs, and core for strength and mobility.



Communication:

Understanding & using language.



Cognitive:

Ability to learn and solve problems.



Eligibility for Early Intervention

- States have defined Definitions of Eligibility Criteria which include:
 - measured developmental delays,
 - a diagnosed condition that is known to result in a delay
- Some States include a definition of At-risk as part of their definition of developmental delay.

Goals of Early Intervention

Child Find/ Public Awareness



Identify, evaluate and meet the needs of children including historically under-represented populations

Enhance Capacity of Families



To meet developmental & health related needs of infants/toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities

Provide Family Centered Approach



Based on the uniqueness of the family and their culture

NJEIS Mission Statement

Support Families As Children Transition From EI



Into community programs: preschool, early childhood programs, and other systems of services & supports

Natural Environments

“Early intervention services must be provided in natural environments, including the home and community settings in which children without disabilities participate, to the maximum extent that is appropriate.”





Services at Public Expense

- Child Find
- Service Coordination
- Comprehensive, Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Assessment
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Procedural Safeguards



Evaluation / Assessment Process

- Two or more professionals examine all areas of development
- Use Multiple Sources of Information
 - Standardized tool (some states)
 - Informed Clinical opinion
 - Parent interview
 - Review of medication records
- Conduct further assessment of family routines and concerns and priorities and routines

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Ongoing Service Coordinator

Connects family to their service providers

Coordinates Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

Connects family to other community resources, such as childcare

Completes periodic/annual IFSP reviews

Facilitates transition plan

Routines Based Intervention

A systematic approach where family members & service providers embed intervention consistently throughout the day, rather than individual, isolated therapy sessions.

Routines are:

Family-guided, functional and predictable activities that match the interest and individual schedules of the child and family.

Routines occur:

On a regular basis and are repeated frequently, offering multiple opportunities for teaching and learning.

Routines are:

Functional events of daily living that offer opportunities to teach and practice meaningful skills in settings & situations as they are needed.



Early Intervention Practitioners

Practitioners are qualified personnel who have met state approved and/or recognized certification, licensing, registration or other comparable requirements that apply to individuals who are conducting evaluation, assessment or early intervention services.



Transition Beyond Early Intervention Services

Building Connections to the Community



Educational Services

- Head Start/Early Head Start, Childcare Agencies, YMCA
- Dept of Education & Local School Districts
- Child Protection Services
- Parent Centers



Community Activities

- Cultural Organizations
- Faith-based Organizations
- Public Libraries
- Community Recreation
- Social Service Agencies
- Special Olympics
- Family Success Centers



Support Services

- Healthcare Providers, Medicaid, Social Security Insurance (SSI)
- Family Support Organizations
- Mental Health Organizations



When To Consider Calling Early Intervention?

Contact Early Intervention if:

- there are concerns about a child's development
- a diagnosis with a high probability of developmental delay

[ECTA Center: Part C State Systems and Coordinators](#)

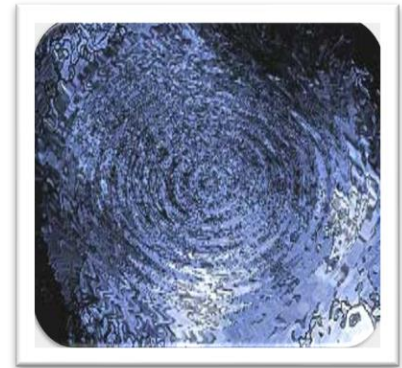
Can link you with your state system



Questions?



Another Family Story...





WHO WE ARE

- Mission/Vision
- History
- Team
- Services/Support
- Impact

OUR CONSTITUENTS

- Families
- Youth
- Professionals
- Family Organizations

OUR PARTNERS

- Funders
- Community Based Organization
- National & State Departments/Agencies
- Various Coalitions/Collaboratives

A “One-Stop” for Families

Grow Up Healthy!



Watch Me!

Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns
A FREE Online Training Course

Confident and informed parents play a critical role in the health and well-being of children in their care and their families.

"Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns" is a FREE, 1-hour online training course that helps you learn how to support your child's development and share your concerns with your pediatrician.

Download the app and practice to support your child's development and share your concerns with your pediatrician.

www.cdc.gov/WatchMeTraining



MILESTONES MATTER: LET'S TALK ABOUT THEM!

Milestones at 4 Months

- Brings hands to mouth
- Holds head steady

Milestones at 9 Months

- Sits without support
- Bangs things together

Milestones at 15 Months

- Points to get help
- Uses fingers to feed themselves

Milestones at 2 Years

- Points to body parts
- Eats with a spoon

Milestones at 3 Years

- Uses a fork
- Asks "who," "what" questions

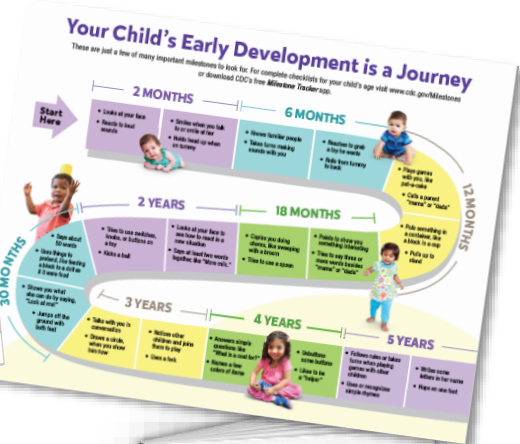
Milestones at 4 Years

- Says sentences with 4 words
- Serves themselves food

Get free milestone checklists for these ages and more at www.cdc.gov/Milestones or by calling 800-CDC-INFO (800-332-4636).

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

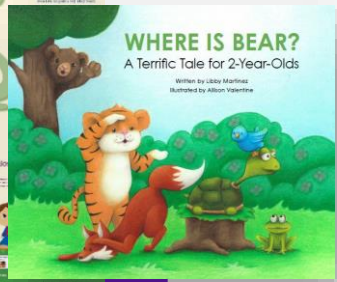
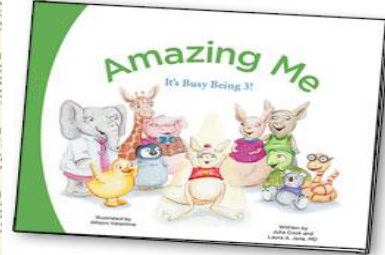
Developed in partnership by the University of Minnesota and the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



www.cdc.gov/actearly

NATIONAL CENTER ON BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Learn the Signs. Act Early.



Help your child grow and thrive

Your child's early years are so very important. Tracking how your little one plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves helps you support their development.

Download CDC's free Milestones Tracker app to find fun and easy activities for each age.

Track & Share Milestones
Get Tips & Activities
Learn When to Act Early

Learn more at cdc.gov/milestones/tracker

Milestones Matter

Track your child's developmental milestones and try brain building tips to add learning to everyday moments!

Track Your Child's Development

Track how your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves with CDC's Milestones Tracker app—and share all progress and any concerns with their doctor during well-child visits.

www.cdc.gov/MilestonesTracker

BY 2 MONTHS:
Smiles at you

BY 6 MONTHS:
Laughs with you

BY 12 MONTHS:
Plays games with you like "peek-a-boo"

BY 18 MONTHS:
Points to show you something interesting

Brain Building Tip:
We're surrounded by words that are ready for reading. To reading again about your child and talk to them about what they mean. It doesn't matter if it's books, magazines, or billboards—it all counts! Reading to your child, anywhere and everywhere, helps them develop a rich, diverse vocabulary. Find more tips at prospect.org

Why?
We're surrounded by words that are ready for reading. To reading again about your child and talk to them about what they mean. It doesn't matter if it's books, magazines, or billboards—it all counts! Reading to your child, anywhere and everywhere, helps them develop a rich, diverse vocabulary. Find more tips at prospect.org

Do you have concerns about how your child plays, learns, speaks, acts or moves? Visit www.cdc.gov/concerned and talk with your child's doctor.

CDC does not endorse products, services, or organizations. Find more tips at prospect.org

Baby's Busy Day

Being one is So Much Fun!

Milestone Moments

Milestones Matter!
Look inside for milestones to watch for in your child and tips for how you can help your child learn and grow from birth to age 5.

www.cdc.gov/milestones

SPAN & NJEIS Partnership

- Work with the Family Support Specialists at the Regional Early Intervention Collaboratives to:
 - Support families navigating the EI system
 - Transition from EI to Part B or Other Next Steps Presentations
- Represented on the Pyramid Model State Leadership Team
- Positive Solutions for Families
 - Staff trained together
 - Shared waitlists for families to participate in these trainings



Empowering Families



Help families build:

- Trusting relationships
- Self-confidence
- Self-efficacy
- Support networks

Connect families to and partner with:

- Family organizations in your state
 - Parent Center: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/find-your-center/>
 - Family to Family Health Information Center/Family Voices State Affiliate Organization: <https://familyvoices.org/affiliates/>
 - Parent to Parent Program: <https://www.p2pusa.org/parents/>

Some Challenges/Barriers that Families have with Accessing Services

- Scared/hesitant to talk to their child's provider
- Unaware of existing healthcare services & healthcare financing options or how to access them
- Intimidated by anti-immigrant rhetoric
- Families with mixed-immigrant status may be unaware of eligibility status
- Many immigrant families fear government authority based on their countries of origin and/or their experiences of discrimination in the US, particularly when families have one or more members without documentation
- Stigma and cultural barriers around disabilities, diagnosis, etc.

Important Points to Share with Families



- Accessing EI services as early as needed can help a child get connected to services that can help address any developmental delays early
- A doctor's referral is not needed to receive Early Intervention Services however it is important that the family communicates with their child's doctor
- Evaluation is free of cost, however, there may be a sliding scale fee to receive services
- EI does not provide a diagnosis or label a child
- Ongoing monitoring of developmental milestones is important even if their child is eligible to receive EI services -

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html>



The Basics of Early Intervention

- With these training materials from the Center for Parent Information and Resources, you can learn about and provide training on the:
 - 8 basic steps in the early intervention process;
 - 7 acronyms used in early intervention and what they mean; and
 - 9 key terms in early intervention and their definitions.

<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/partc-module1/>



Early Intervention in the early months and first two years.



**Smiles,
Acceptance, not
limits!**





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