

Early Intervention Services

While all children grow and develop in unique ways, some children experience delays in their development. Children in Pennsylvania with developmental delays benefit from a state supported collaboration among parents, service practitioners and others who work with young children needing special services. The Pennsylvania Early Intervention program provides support and services to families with children birth to age 5 or those with developmental delays. Early Intervention builds upon the natural learning opportunities that occur within the daily routines of a child and their family.

[A Family's Introduction to Early Intervention in Pennsylvania](#) (PDF)

[Pennsylvania's Approach to the Delivery of Early Intervention Services](#) (PDF)

[Pennsylvania Model of Early Intervention](#) (PDF)

Early Intervention promotes a philosophy that supports:

- Services and resources for children that enhance daily opportunities for learning provided in settings where a child would be if he/she did not have a disability.
- Families' independence and competencies.
- Respect of families' strengths, values and diversity.

Early Intervention supports and services are designed to meet the developmental needs of children with a disability as well as the needs of the family related to enhancing the child's development in one or more of the following areas:

- Physical development, including vision and hearing
- Cognitive development
- Communication development
- Social or emotional development
- Adaptive development

What Children Are Eligible?

Children from birth to age 5 who have special needs due to developmental delays or disabilities are eligible to receive Early Intervention services. The eligibility requirements are noted in [A Family's Introduction to Early Intervention in Pennsylvania](#) (PDF).

What Services are Provided to Meet the Developmental Needs of a Child?

The services provided to children and their families differ based upon the individual needs and strengths of each child and the child's family. Services such as parent education, support services, developmental therapies and other family-centered services that assist in child development and may be included in a family's Early Intervention program.

Early Intervention promotes collaboration among parents, service providers and other important people in the child's life to enhance the child's development and support the needs of the family.

Where do Children and Their Families Receive Services?

Services may be provided in the child's home, child care center, nursery school, play group, Head Start program, early childhood special education classroom or other settings familiar to the family. Early Intervention provides supports and services in an ever changing variety of settings. Early Intervention supports and services are embedded in typical routines and activities, within the family, community and/or early care and education settings. This approach provides frequent, meaningful practice and skill building opportunities.

What is the Cost for Services?

Early Intervention services are provided at no cost to families.

How to Receive Services

Parents who have questions about their child's development may contact the **CONNECT Helpline at 1-800-692-7288**. The CONNECT Helpline assists families in locating resources and providing information regarding child development for children ages birth to age 5. In addition, CONNECT can assist parents by making a direct link to their local Early Intervention program or local preschool Early Intervention program.

[A Family's Introduction to Early Intervention in Pennsylvania](#) (PDF)

Other resources for Parents:

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania - www.parenttoparent.org

Parent to Parent (P2P) was created by families for families of children and adults with special needs. It connects families in similar situations with one another so that they may share experiences, offer practical information and/or advise.

To learn more about the program and how you can be connected with another parent who has been through a similar experience, you can make a request through their Web site www.parenttoparent.org or call:

- Toll-Free number 1-888-727-2706 (within Pennsylvania)
- If you are out of state: 717-540-4722

[Hispanics United for Exceptional Children \(HUNE\)](#)

[Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center \(PEAL\)](#)

[Parent Education Network \(PEN\)](#)

[Problem Solving Brochure](#) (PDF)

Additional Resources:

[Infant, Toddler and Families Guidelines to Support the EI Process: TRANSITION](#) (PDF)

[Guidelines to Support the EI Process: INCLUSION](#) (PDF)

[Early Childhood Accountability in Pennsylvania \(ECAP\)](#) (PDF)

[Glossary of Terms](#) (PDF)

Laws and Regulations Regarding the Early Intervention Program or the Preschool Early Intervention Program:

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#)

[Part C \(Infants/Toddlers\)](#)

[619 Part B \(Preschool\)](#)

[Act 212](#)

[Chapter 4226](#)

[Chapter 14](#)