The Parent Information Center of Delaware

Inform. Educate. Advocate.

Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities

AT A GLANCE

Eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities, aged birth to three, can receive early intervention supports and services to address their unique developmental needs. Their families can also receive early intervention supports and services so they can build their abilities to support their child's development and advocate for services to meet their child's unique needs.

Note that many people refer to early intervention services as "Part C" services, because Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal law that requires states to provide early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities.

WHAT KINDS OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVCIES CAN AN ELIGIBLE CHILD AND FAMILY RECEIVE?

- Special instruction/early childhood education
- Therapy services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology
- Audiology, sign language, and cued speech
- Vision services
- Supports and services for families, including service coordination, family training, counseling, home visits, social work services, and transportation

Who do I contact if I believe my child needs early intervention services?

Child Development Watch (CDW):

New Castle County Office (8:00 am - 4:30 pm)
Chopin Building, University Plaza, Newark, DE
(302) 283-7240 / (800) 671-0050

Kent/Sussex Counties Office (8:00 am - 4:30 pm)
Walnut Street Building, Milford, DE

For more information visit www.picofdel.org or call (302) 999-7394

PIC is a statewide non-profit organization with a mission to advance effective parent engagement in education.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?

An infant or toddler, aged birth to three, and the child's family, are eligible to receive early intervention services if the child meets the definition of "infant or toddler with a disability."

There are two ways in which an infant or toddler can be eligible for early intervention services:

1. If the child has a 25% delay in one or more of the following areas of development: (a) cognitive; (b) physical (including vision and hearing); (c) communication; (d) social or emotional; (e) adaptive. **OR**
2. If the child has a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, even if the child does not currently have a delay of 25%. This includes conditions like Down Syndrome, a genetic or congenital disorder, a chromosomal abnormality, a nervous system or metabolic disorder.

WHAT AGENCIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?

Child Development Watch (CDW), an agency within the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), is responsible for providing early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The Birth to Three Program, another agency within DHSS is the "Lead Agency" or state office responsible for general supervision of the early intervention system in Delaware.

HOW IS IT DECIDED WHETHER A CHILD IS ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES AND WHAT EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES A CHILD AND FAMILY WILL RECEIVE IF ELIGIBLE?

If your child is referred to CDW, CDW will – with your consent – conduct an evaluation of your child, and then decide -- based upon that evaluation and information that you provide – whether your child is eligible for early intervention services.

If your child is found eligible for early intervention services, CDW will hold a meeting that includes you, your CDW service coordinator, and other professionals to develop a document called an individualized family service plan (IFSP) to meet your child's and family's unique needs. You as the parents will be an important part of the team that develops the IFSP.

With your written consent, CDW will provide the services for your child and family as set forth in the IFSP.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Department of Health and Social Services, Birth to Three
https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/epqc/birth3/directry.html

Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
http://ectacenter.org/families.asp

Center for Parent Information and Resources
https://www.parentcenterhub.org/ei-overview/