



Help Me Grow

Pennsylvania Early Intervention Services

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania provides individualized services and supports for children with developmental delays and developmental screening and tracking services for children at risk for delays. Early Intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in those first few years and promotes collaboration among families, providers, and others significantly involved with the child. Infants, toddlers and preschool children experiencing a developmental delay or a disability may be eligible for Early Intervention services.

Early Intervention Developmental Tracking

Do you have concerns about an infant or toddler who might be at risk for a developmental delay?

Developmental screening and tracking services include a process to regularly assess the development of a child who is at risk for developing a delay. An infant or toddler may be eligible for tracking services through Pennsylvania's Early Intervention program if they are at risk for a developmental delay based on one of the following categories:

- Low birth weight
- Cared for in a hospital's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- Prenatal substance exposure, including alcohol exposure
- Referred by a county children and youth agency
- Exposed to lead
- Experiencing homelessness

Early Intervention Services and Supports

Who is eligible for Early Intervention Services?

Infants and toddlers (birth to age three) who have:

- A delay in one or more areas of development
OR
- A specialist determines that there is a delay even if not indicated on the evaluation (called informed clinical opinion)
OR
- Based on a disability, such as Down Syndrome

Preschoolers (three years of age to school age) who have:

- A delay in one or more areas of development
OR
- Any of the following physical or mental disabilities: autism/pervasive developmental disorder; serious emotional disturbance; neurological impairment; deafness/hearing loss; specific learning disability; intellectual disabilities; multiple disabilities; other health impairment; physical disability; speech impairment or blindness/visual impairment
AND
- Are in need of special education and related services

Where can a child be referred and family get more information?

A first step if you or a family member has concerns about a child's development is to call **Pennsylvania Statewide CONNECT** at 1-800-692-7288.

The family will be referred to a local Early Intervention program for a developmental screening and if appropriate an evaluation of the child's development.