

Distributed by: The Children with Special Health Care Needs Program and the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program
Contributors: Washington State Department of Health and UW – Center on Human Development & Disability

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES



**IF UNSURE,
REFER!**

WHY REFER CHILDREN FOR EARLY INTERVENTION?

Early intervention enhances a child's development. Nearly 50 years of research has demonstrated that children receiving early intervention services need fewer special education and other services later in life, and, in some cases, are indistinguishable from classmates without disabilities.

Families benefit too! Additionally, early intervention helps parents understand their child's developmental growth and reduces the stress experienced by families of infants and toddlers with disabilities. Supported families need less out-of-home placement. Statistics demonstrate less abuse and neglect occurs for children receiving early intervention services.

- **It is cost effective.** Data shows long-term cost savings from early intervention programs. The cost is less when intervention is earlier, preventing developmental problems that would have required special services later in life.

WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION?

- Early intervention provides services for infants and toddlers, **birth to three**, who have developmental delays or disabilities. Eligible infants and toddlers in Washington State are entitled to individualized, quality early intervention services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.
- Services may include **speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, special instruction and a Family Resources Coordinator (FRC) who works with the family to access needed services.**
- If a child qualifies for services, the FRC will work with the family and early intervention professionals to write an **Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP)**. This is similar to an IEP, but is for children below the age of three years. It outlines the child's unique strengths and needs, outcomes to be addressed and services needed to meet the outcomes. It is reviewed every 6 months and rewritten annually.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY INTERVENTION IN WASHINGTON STATE?

- The developmental domains that are assessed include: motor, cognitive, communication, social and adaptive.
- To be eligible, a child must have a **25% delay or show a 1.5 standard deviation** below his or her age in one or more of the developmental areas.
- A child may also be eligible if he or she has a **physical or mental condition**, such as Down syndrome, that is known to cause a delay in development.

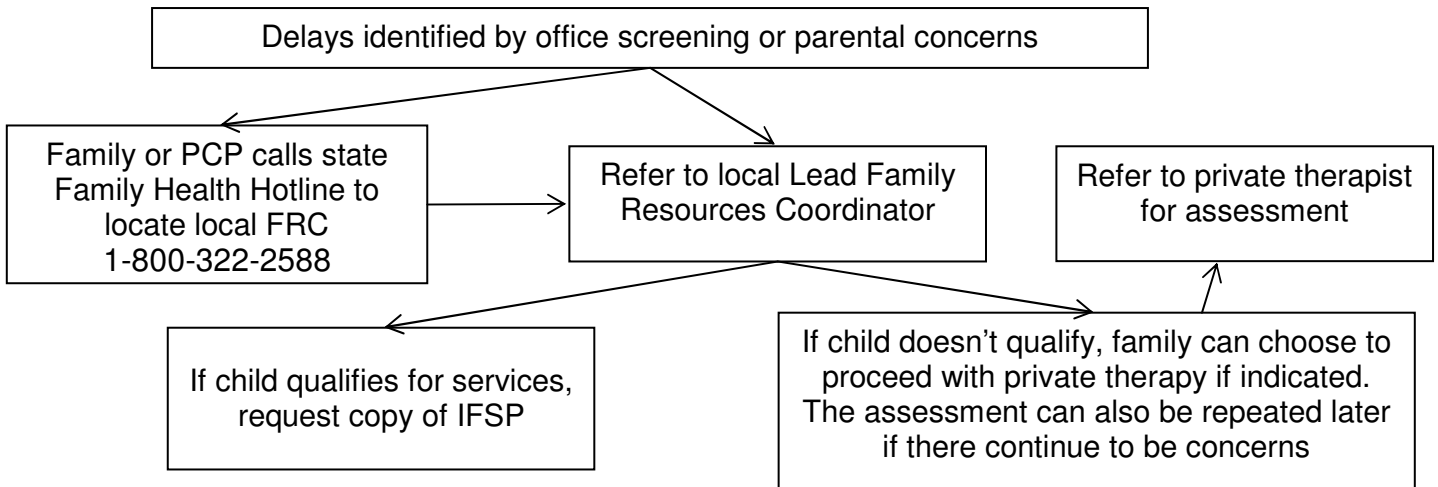
WHAT IS THE EARLY SUPPORT FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS (ESIT) PROGRAM?

In Washington State, the early intervention program is called the **Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program**. It was formerly known as the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP). Program services are provided under a federal law called The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. The ESIT system in each county is coordinated by one Local Lead Agency under the authority of a Department of Early Learning (DEL) contract. The local early intervention system is a collaborative program of child and family serving agencies including schools, health and human services, families, and other community providers and organizations.

If a child's delays are not significant enough to qualify for services through ESIT but you believe they would benefit from intervention, the FRC can assist parents to explore the option of private therapy services. Insurance contracts vary a great deal, so each family would have to determine coverage with their carrier.

HOW DO I REFER A CHILD FOR AN EVALUATION?

If you need assistance with this, you (with family permission) or the family can call your county's lead Family Resources Coordinator (FRC), who will help the family access early intervention services. Find contact information for your local lead FRC in the County Resources box below or call the statewide "Family Health Hotline" number at **1-800-322-2588**.



SNOHOMISH COUNTY RESOURCES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES	
➤ For children under 36 months: Contact:	
Joan Flesher	425-388-7402
Sharon McConnachie	1-800-927-9308
	InfantToddlerProgram@snoco.org

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:		
Local:	Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program	425-388-7114, 1-800-927-9308
	Children with Special Health Care Needs Program	425-339-8652
Regional:	WithinReach Family Health Hotline	1-800-322-2588, 1-800-833-6388 TTD www.withinreachwa.org
	Early Support For Infants and Toddlers (ESIT), formerly ITEIP	www.del.wa.gov/publications/esit/Default.aspx Main number: (360) 725-3500
	ESIT Services Eligibility	www.del.wa.gov/development/esit/eligibility.aspx
	ESIT Services, Screening & Evaluation	www.del.wa.gov/development/esit/services.aspx
	Washington Department of Early Learning	www.del.wa.gov/Default.aspx
	Parent to Parent Support Programs of Washington	(800) 821-5927 www.arcwa.org/parent_to_parent.htm
	Seattle Children's Hospital	
	Health Professional Hotline (limited to health care providers)	(800) 293-2462
National/Internet:	American Academy of Pediatrics	www.aap.org
	AAP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics	www.dbpeds.org
	American Academy of Family Physicians	www.aafp.org
	CDC Act Early	www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html
	Family Village (Extensive family resources for CSHCN)	www.familyvillage.wisc.edu
	Family Voices (Links to national and state family support networks)	www.familyvoices.org



Snohomish County
Infant Toddler Early
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SNOHOMISH
HEALTH DISTRICT

