

Child Health Notes



Promoting early identification and partnerships between families, primary health care providers & the community.

Distributed by Public Health-Seattle & King County-Children with Special Health Care Needs Program. This newsletter provides physicians, nurse practitioners, primary health care providers, public health centers and community partners with current information regarding identification and management of special health issues for children. Contributing agencies and programs include: 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, feeding therapy, nutrition services, special education, vision services, and a Family Resources Coordinator.**
- If a child qualifies for services, the birth-to-three center will work with the family 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 special needs and strengths, and goals of intervention. It is updated every 6 months.

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 Vision impairment, Hearing Impairment, Down Syndrome, Cerebral palsy, Autism, or Epilepsy that is known to cause a delay in development.

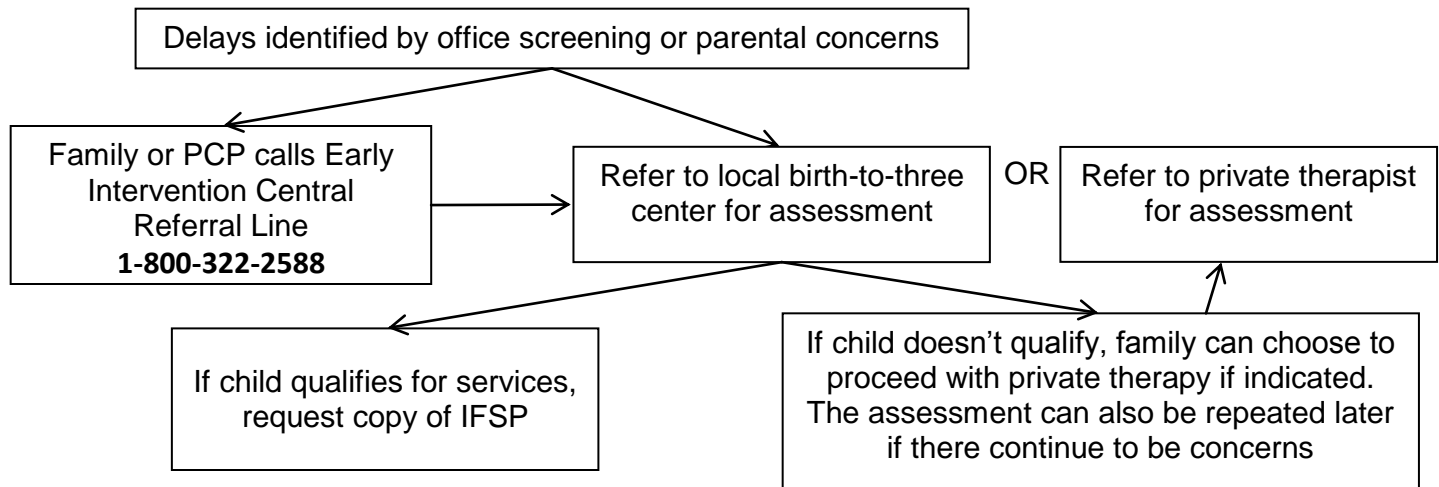
WHAT IS Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)?

In Washington State, the early learning program is referred to as Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (**formerly ITEIP**) and is associated with a federal law called The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). The ESIT system in each county is directed by the Local Lead Agency under the authority of the Department of Early Learning ESIT Contracts. 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, parents can 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 making a referral, you or the family can call the Early Intervention Central Referral Line at **1-800-322-2588**, who will help the family access early intervention services. Or send a fax to the Early Intervention line at **206-299-9146** or call the Children with Special Health Care Needs Program at **(206) 296-4610**.



COUNTY RESOURCES FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES	
➤ For children under 36 months: Contact: Within Reach- Early Intervention Central Referral Line	1-800-322-2588
➤ B-3: Main Number in Olympia: 360-725-3500	http://www.del.wa.gov/development/esit
➤ ESIT Services Eligibility	http://www.del.wa.gov/development/esit/eligibility.aspx
➤ ESIT Evaluations	http://www.del.wa.gov/development/esit/services.aspx
➤ Washington State Department of Early Learning	www.del.wa.gov/Default.aspx

SPECIAL NEEDS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES:		
Local:	Within Reach-Early Intervention Central Referral Line	(800) 756-5437 FAX 206-299-9146
	Children with Special Health Care Needs Program Nurse	206-296-4610 www.kingcounty.gov/health/cshcn
	Arc of King County Parent to Parent Program www.arcofkingcounty.org/our-services/parent-to-parent-support-program/parent-to-parent-support-program	206-829-7039 Tuesday & Thursday 425-643-4048 Wednesday & Friday
	Regional: WithinReach Family Health Hotline	1-800-322-2588, 1-800-833-6388 TTD www.withinreachwa.org
	Washington State Medical Home	www.medicalhome.org
	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

Children with Special Health Care Needs Program
 401 5th Ave, Suite 1000
 Seattle, WA 98104-2333
 206-296-4610
www.kingcounty.gov/health/cshcn

