



Overview

Pennsylvania's Early Intervention (EI) program provides support and services to families with children, from birth to school-age, with developmental delays and disabilities. Building upon the natural learning opportunities that occur within the daily routines of a child and their family, EI provides services in settings where a child would be if they did not have a developmental delay or disability whenever possible, while supporting families' independence and competencies. EI has two parts – one for Infants and Toddlers administered through the counties, and another for children from 3 years to school age administered by the local Early Intervention program. In both, supports and services are designed to meet the developmental needs of each child with a disability in one or more of the following areas:

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

The Plans

An **IFSP**, or **Individualized Family Service Plan**, is developed for eligible children up to age three by the family, the child's Supports Coordinator (SC), and anyone the family wants to include, using a process designed to ensure that everyone works in a coordinated way towards goals which reflect your concerns and priorities and meet the individual needs of your child and family.

An **IEP**, or **Individualized Education Program**, is developed at least once each year for children aged three and above. The IEP creates an opportunity for teachers, parents, school administrators, related services personnel, and students to work together to improve educational results for children with disabilities. The IEP is the cornerstone of a quality education for each child with a disability.

How do I get started?

If you have questions about your child's development, call the CONNECT Helpline: 1-800-692-7288 or email help@connectpa.net, or submit a form online. The CONNECT Helpline assists families in locating resources and providing information regarding child development for children ages birth to five. In addition, CONNECT can assist parents by making a direct link to their county EI program or local preschool EI program.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Education Law Center: <https://www.elc-pa.org/>

Disability Rights Pennsylvania:
www.disabilityrightspa.org/

ChildLink, <https://childlink.phmc.org/>

Office of Child Development and Early Learning
<https://www.education.pa.gov/EarlyLearning/Pages/default.aspx>