Early Intervention Frequently Asked Questions

What is Early Intervention?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) is a statewide program administered by the NYS Department of Health. The EIP provides many different types of services to infants and toddlers.

How do I make a referral?

Contact the Early Intervention Official at (516) 227-8661.

Who is eligible?

Children are eligible for the EIP if they are under three years of age and have a disability or developmental delay.

How is eligibility decided?

All children referred receive a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility for services. NYS definition of development delay means that a child has not attained certain milestones expected for the child's age adjusted for prematurity. A development delay is a delay that has been measured by qualified personnel using appropriate diagnostic procedures which document:

- 12 month delay in one functional area;
- 33% delay in one functional area or 25% in each of two areas;
- 2 Standard deviations below the mean in one functional area or 1.5 standard deviation below the mean in each of two functional areas.

What happens after an evaluation?

The evaluation team or a member of the team will discuss with you their findings. The evaluation team must write an evaluation report and summary.

If your child is eligible, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed.

What is an IFSP?

Your family's IFSP will include a statement of:

- Child's present level of functioning
- Family's resources, priorities and concerns related to child's development

Early intervention services needed to meet your child's and family's needs
Where services will be provided
Outcome or goals expected from services
Strategies, activities that will lead to the outcomes

What services are available?

Audiology
Family training
Occupational therapy
Physical therapy
Psychological services
Social Work services
Special Instruction
Speech language therapy
Vision services

How are services provided?

All services can be given using any of the following service models:

Home and community based visits (family's home, relative's home, child care center, family day care, or other places parents to with their children.
Facility or center based visits (where services provider works)
Parent Child groups (can happen anywhere in the community)
Group Developmental intervention (a group means two or more children who are eligible for early intervention services.

Who pays for services?

Early intervention services are provided at no cost to families. Health insurance is used to pay for services in New York State.

What happens when my child turns 3 years of age?

A transition plan must be developed for every child leaving the EIP. With your permission, your service coordinator will incorporate the transition plan into your IFSP and notify the Committee on Preschool Education (CPSE) in your district. Your district arranges for an evaluation of your child's abilities and needs. Based on evaluation results, the CPSE decides if your child is eligible to receive special education services and programs. If your child is eligible, and

Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed based on evaluation results.