

California's Early Start Program for Infants and Toddlers

EARLY INTERVENTION AND EARLY START

Early intervention services are those designed to meet the developmental needs of a child and to support the child's family in meeting the child's needs. In California, early intervention services for infants and toddlers are provided through a program called "Early Start", a federally funded program that provides family-centered early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A child from birth to 2 years old may be eligible for services if the child has (1) a delay of 33% or more in one or more areas of development, (2) an established risk condition, or (3) two or more biomedical risk factors or a parent with developmental disabilities. Eligibility is determined by evaluating a child's development in the following areas:

- Cognitive development (*thinking*)
- Physical and motor development, including vision and hearing
- Communication development (*speech and language*)
- Social/emotional development
- Adaptive development (*self-help skills*)

HOW ARE SERVICES PROVIDED?

- If a child is found to be eligible for Early Start services, the child's and the family's needs are assessed to determine appropriate services. A service plan, called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), is then developed by a team that includes early intervention specialists, service providers and service coordinators and the child's parents. The IFSP is reviewed every 6 months, revised as needed, and remains in effect until the child turns 3 years old or no longer needs services. Services are provided at no cost to families.
- In Contra Costa County, IFSPs are developed by the Regional Center of the East Bay or the child's local school district, depending on which agency is responsible for serving the child. Children with vision or hearing impairments or solely physical disabilities are usually served by local school districts. Children with developmental delays or at risk for developmental delays may be served by the Regional Center, the Contra Costa County Office of Education or local school districts depending on the services the child needs and where the child lives.

TO REFER A CHILD FOR EARLY START EVALUATION IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY,

CALL:

Regional Center of the East Bay	(510) 618-6195
West Contra Costa Unified School District	(510) 233-1955
Mt. Diablo Unified School District	(925) 825-0144
San Ramon Valley Unified School District and Orinda, Moraga, Lafayette and Walnut Creek School Districts	(925) 743-9710
Contra Costa County Office of Education (for all other school districts)	(925) 602-3460

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If You Have Concerns About Your Child's Development

- You can refer your child to one of the agencies listed on the reverse side, and they will evaluate your child's development to determine if he or she is eligible for Early Start services.
- The programs listed below can also provide evaluations of your child's development. Your child's healthcare provider may be able to recommend programs that can evaluate your child as well. Health insurance may cover some or all evaluations -- check with your insurer. You may request an evaluation based on concerns you may have about any aspect of your child's development including vision, hearing, speech and language skills, motor skills, self-help skills, cognitive development (thinking), or social/emotional development. The results of an evaluation may lead to referral to a medical specialist for diagnosis or medical treatment and/or to referral for Early Start services (see reverse side).
- When you call, state why you are calling and ask if there is a specific person to whom you should speak. For example, "I am worried about my child's vision (or hearing or development or behavior). Whom can I talk to about my concerns?"

ASSESSMENTS IN MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS

Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland

Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (510) 428-3351
Speech/Language Center (communication and hearing) Walnut Creek Campus (925) 979-3440
San Ramon Clinic (925) 979-3470

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center

Outpatient Pediatric Rehabilitation Services (510) 204-4599
(for speech/language, motor skills, hearing and behavior/mental health evaluations)

Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, Clinic for ASD & ADHD Diagnostics (925) 370-5490
(for children with any neurodevelopmental issues; Contra Costa Health Plan or full-scope Medi-Cal)

ASSESSMENTS OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program

If your child has MediCal, ask your child's healthcare provider, medical plan or Public Health Nurse for a referral

Contra Costa Health Services, Appointments at health centers (800) 495-8885

California Children Services (for children with eligible medical conditions) (925) 957-2680

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Early Childhood Mental Health Program (West County) (510) 412-9200

Lynn Center (East County) (925) 625-4918

We Care Mental Health Services (Central County) (925) 671-0777

VISION ASSESSMENTS

Blind Babies Foundation (510) 446-2229

University of California, School of Optometry

Meredith Morgan University Eye Center (510) 642-2020
Web site: www.caleye-care.org

HEARING AND COMMUNICATION (SPEECH AND LANGUAGE) ASSESSMENTS

California State University East Bay (Hayward Campus), Center for Communicative Disorders

Speech, Hearing and Language Clinic (510) 885-3241

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