

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES



Early intervention services, or Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, provide services and support to children (birth to age 3) with a delay or disability. Early intervention services are designed to help families enhance their children's development and better meet their needs.

Determining eligibility

Eligibility criteria for early intervention services can differ from state to state. The IDEA says children birth to age 3 may be eligible for early intervention services if they have:

- A diagnosed condition that is likely to result in a developmental delay
- A developmental delay in one or more of the following areas:
 - Adaptive/self-help skills
 - Social/emotional development
 - Communication
 - Physical development, including vision and hearing
 - Cognitive development

The Defense Department provides early intervention services through the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services program. EDIS is located at OCONUS locations and CONUS on installations with a Department of Defense Education Activity school. Families in the continental United States who do not live on an installation should ask their medical provider for information on the state agency that provides eligibility evaluations.

Individualized family service plans

When a child is found eligible for EIS, the family works with EIS providers to develop an individualized family service plan. The family is a child's greatest resource, and this plan is designed to empower the family to actively participate in the child's growth and development.

The plan describes the child's current developmental levels, desired outcomes and a description of services and support needed. Family resources, priorities and concerns are taken into consideration when the IFSP is developed.

Types of services

Services and support are individualized for the child and family to meet family service plan goals. Early intervention providers with specialized skills and knowledge work as a team with parents to address the desired outcomes.

Early intervention services are provided in the child's natural environments, creating opportunities for the family to help the child learn through typical routines and activities. Services can be provided in a variety of locations where the family spends time and are based upon the family's unique mix of routines and activities.

When a child turns 3

Early intervention services usually end when the child turns 3. Some children may require continued services and support during preschool years and may transition to special education services.

For additional information about early intervention services, contact your installation's Exceptional Family Member Program office or visit the Education Directory for Children with Special Needs at <https://efmpeducationdirectory.militaryonesource.mil/>.

For additional assistance including specialty consultations, planning tools, non-medical counseling and more, call or visit **MilitaryOneSource.mil | 800-342-9647**

