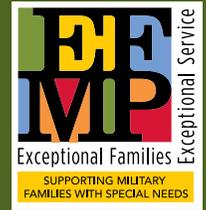


Early Intervention Services



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 increase the ability of the families to meet their children's needs.

Determining eligibility

Eligibility for early intervention services differs from state to state. Children birth to age 3 may be eligible for EIS 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

Some states provide services to infants and toddlers considered to be at high risk of developing a delay if early intervention services were not provided.

Individualized Family Service Plans

If a child is found eligible for early intervention services, 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 member to actively participate in the child's growth and development.

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>

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 individualized family service plan is developed.

Types of services

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

Early intervention services are provided in 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.

Contact your installation's Exceptional Family Member Program office or your state's early intervention services programs (<http://ectacenter.org/contact/ptccoord.asp>) for additional information about early intervention services.

Exceptional Family Member Program support is available for military families with special needs.

For more information, please contact your installation EFMP office or visit

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>, an official Department of Defense website.