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NEW YORK STATE Department of Health

## Overview of the Early Intervention Program

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DECEMBER 12, 2024 / SUPPORTING FAMILIES TO IDENTIFY DISABILITIES AND GET HELP EARLY

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## Background, Mission and Goals of the Program

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## BACKGROUND- EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

- New York State's Early Intervention Program is for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and their families
- Part C of federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Title II-A of Article 25 of PHL - Implemented July 1, 1993
- Department of Health is Lead Agency responsible for administration and oversight
- All fifty-seven counties and New York City have a designated Early Intervention Official/public agency responsible for local administration

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**EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM MISSION**

- ✓ Identify and evaluate as early as possible those infants and toddlers whose healthy development is compromised.
- ✓ Provide the appropriate interventions to improve child and family development.



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**EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

Children birth to three years of age with a developmental delay with either:

- A diagnosed condition with a high probability of resulting in developmental delay, or
- A developmental delay affecting function in one or more areas of development (cognitive, physical, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive development)



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**EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

Services: service coordination, special instruction, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services, nursing, audiology, family training, home visits, parent support, nutrition, vision, social work, and assistive technology (AT) devices and services.



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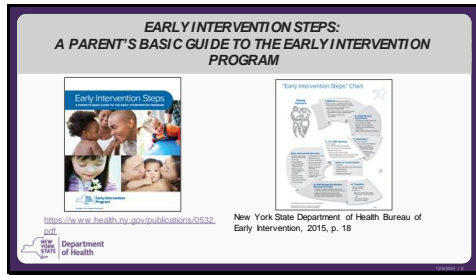
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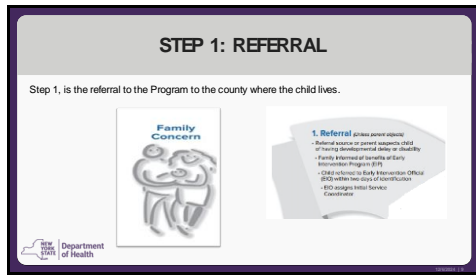
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**EVALUATION**





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**STEP 3: EVALUATION**

- **Multidisciplinary Evaluation** means the procedures used by two or more qualified professionals from different disciplines to determine a child's initial and continuing eligibility for the Early Intervention Program, by assessing five areas of development: cognitive, physical, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive development.





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**IF A CHILD IS FOUND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

In addition to the required components of a multidisciplinary evaluation report, a report for a child who is not found eligible for the program should include:

- A **clear statement** that the child is not eligible
- Recommended **resources** and other services that may be available in the community for the child and family
- Information on **developmental milestones**
- Recommendations to **enhance or track development** of at-risk children





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**WHAT IS AN INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN**

**An Individualized Family Service Plan is:**

- A written plan for providing early intervention services to a child eligible for the Early Intervention Program and the child's family.
- Developed jointly by the parents and early intervention personnel that comprise the Individualized Family Service Plan team



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**FAMILY-CENTERED SERVICES**

- Early intervention services should focus on the specific identified needs of the family
- Identified current and needed supports identified by the family.
- Parents should be included and provided with opportunities to participate in their child's early intervention program during times that are convenient to them.



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**INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN REVIEW**



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**STEP 5: INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN REVIEW  
(6 MONTHS/ EVALUATED ANNUALLY)**

**5. IFSP Review Six Months, Evaluate Annually**

- Decision is made to continue, add, modify or delete outcomes, strategies and/or services
- If parent requests, may review sooner (if parent requests an increase in services, EIO may ask for supplemental evaluation)




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**TRANSITION OUT OF THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

- Eligible children can receive Early Intervention Program services from birth to age three
- The last date eligible children can receive Early Intervention Program services is **the day before** their third birthday, unless preschool special education eligibility has been determined through the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) through their school district.


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**OTHER SUPPORTS AND SERVICES**

This includes a referral to:

- Children with Special Health Care Needs (if the municipality participates)
- Child Care Resource and Referral Program
- Other appropriate resources (example: Health Homes Serving Children for Medicaid eligible children, Office for People with Developmental Services)





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**QUESTIONS**

Bureau of Early Intervention:  
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