

For Providers

New York City

Early Intervention Program

The Earlier, The Better

Help Every Child Get a Great Start

Refer Families to
Developmental Monitoring or
Early Intervention



More than one in eight U.S. children under the age of 3 have a developmental delay that affects their ability to communicate, learn, interact with others, or regulate behavior. Help all children reach their full potential:

- ③ If they are **at risk for** developmental delays or disabilities, refer them to **Developmental Monitoring**.
- ③ If they **have** developmental delays or disabilities, refer them to **Early Intervention**.

The Earlier, The Better

Developmental Monitoring

Refer to Developmental Monitoring if the child is under the age of 3 and has a risk factor for developmental delay such as:

- ③ Was born at less than 33 weeks
- ③ Spent more than 10 days in neonatal intensive care
- ③ Is the child of a teenage mother
- ③ Is the child of a mother who did not receive prenatal care
- ③ Had a birth weight of less than 1,501 grams (3 pounds, 5 ounces)
- ③ Has blood lead levels greater than 5 mcg/dl
- ③ Missed or failed an initial newborn hearing screening
- ③ Exhibits growth deficiency or nutritional problems, such as SGA (small for gestational age)
- ③ Has been exposed to homelessness or domestic violence

Developmental Monitoring will work with caregivers to keep track of the child's development from birth up to their 3rd birthday.

Staff and caregivers monitor the child's progress by mail or phone using the **Ages and Stages Questionnaire**, a child development screening tool. If the screenings begin to show a developmental delay or disability, staff will help the child get an Early Intervention evaluation.

Talk to Parents

- ② Help parents understand how important developmental milestones are.
- ② Discuss the importance of finding and addressing developmental delays early.

Early Intervention

Refer to Early Intervention if the child is under the age of 3 and has a suspected or known developmental delay or disability

such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, or difficulty talking, sitting up, balancing, crawling, walking, eating, playing, or understanding directions.

Early Intervention will perform a complete developmental evaluation to find out if the child can benefit from services.

If the child qualifies, Early Intervention therapists and teachers will spend time with caregivers at home, the day care center, or any other place where the child and family spend their time. Program staff will work with caregivers to help the child achieve the best possible results. Services can include:

- ② Speech, physical, and occupational therapy
- ② Special instruction
- ② Psychological and social work services

Once a referral is made, Developmental Monitoring or Early Intervention staff will contact the family to explain their options and available services in detail. **All services are confidential, voluntary, and free for families,* regardless of income, immigration, or insurance status.**

* If the family has health insurance, like private insurance and Medicaid, New York City is required by law to seek payments from families' insurance companies for Early Intervention services. This will not increase premiums, require copayments, or reduce benefits for families.

To learn more about Developmental Monitoring and Early Intervention, visit **nyc.gov/health/earlyint**.

To refer families to Developmental Monitoring or Early Intervention, call **311** or refer online by visiting **nyc.gov/health/ei-referral**.

