

# Pediatric Healthcare and Infant & Toddler Early Intervention



## What is Infant & Toddler Early Intervention (EI)?

**Infant and Toddler EI** (also known as Part C) provides services to children from birth to 3 years who have a developmental delay **or a high probability of having a developmental delay**. This includes a determination from a specialist (Informed Clinical Opinion) or conditions that put children at risk for a delay, such as Down Syndrome.

Infant and Toddler EI services are available in five areas: **physical development**; **cognitive development**; **communication development** (language); **social or emotional development**; and **adaptive skills**.

Infant and Toddler EI is delivered through an **Individualized Family Service Plan** (IFSP) developed in collaboration between an EI team of professionals and the family. Families are trained and encouraged to carry out recommended activities at home.

## Physician Referrals are Vital to EI Enrollment



The **majority** of referrals to EI come from children's physicians and healthcare providers.

When parents have questions or concerns about their child's development, they **look to their pediatrician for guidance**.

**Development happens quickly and should be an ongoing conversation between families and physicians.**

## Screening and Referral to Infant & Toddler EI

**AAP recommends developmental screening at 9, 18, and 30 months.** Developmental screenings ARE reimbursable by Medicaid and insurers at these intervals. **Use CVT Code: 96110.**

**What's Next:** If the screening raises concerns about the child's development, a more formal evaluation will be conducted, provided that the parent or guardian provides written consent. Families should expect to have the evaluation and, if a child is eligible, the IFSP **completed within 45 days** from the initial referral. Services are then to **begin within 14 calendar days** after the IFSP is created. **Information about a child's eligibility will be sent to the parent or guardian, regardless of who made the referral.**

Physicians and caregivers can start the process through any of the following:

- Call the statewide CONNECT line at 1-800-692-7288
- Email [help@connectpa.net](mailto:help@connectpa.net)
- Fill out a form online (**QR code at right**)



# Early Intervention Services



Service Coordination



Occupational & Physical Therapies



Audiology



Speech Language Services



Vision Services



Psychological & Social Work Services



Nursing Support



Nutritional Services



Assessment & Evaluation Services



Health Services



Special Instruction

## Benefits of Infant & Toddler EI

“[E]arly interventions led to **significant improvements in cognitive, language, and social-emotional functioning in children with [Autism].**”

- Report from California Institute of Behavioral Neurosciences and Psychology

According to the [National Institute of Child Health and Human Development](#), **Autism spectrum disorder can often be diagnosed in children before they are two years old.** AAP recommends standardized autism specific screening tests at 18 months and 24 months.

Studies have shown that early diagnosis of autism and other sensory behaviors and receiving early intervention services **reduces the need for special education programs** when children reach school-age, which comes with cost savings.

## Parent Satisfaction

In a survey published in 2023 by the PA State Interagency Coordinating Council, parents of children in Part C EI said that EI services helped them to:



- **Communicate with Their Child**
- **Help Their Child Learn**
- **Know Their Rights**

## Better Safe than Sorry!



**WHEN IN DOUBT, REFER!**

Development happens quickly and should be an ongoing conversation between parents and physicians. **Referral to EI DOES NOT require a diagnosis, or even certainty that a delay is present.** The EI provider will conduct an evaluation to determine if services are necessary.

In Pennsylvania, **EI Services are FREE!**

Being referred to early intervention helps families find the best way to meet their child's needs, and sets them up for success doing so in the future. Help educate families on risk factors for developmental delays such as preterm birth, low birth weight, and lead exposure.