



Fast Facts

Many families are not aware of the services that can be used for children with special needs here is a quick guide to the services that the state offers.

Early Intervention- coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.force.com

Colorado's Early Intervention program provides supports and services to children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families from birth until the child's third birthday. Early Intervention Colorado can help families learn ways to support and promote their child's development within their everyday routines and activities.



Research shows that the first three years of a child's life are the most important time for developing and learning. By providing needed services and supports during this time, families will be able to help their children with special needs develop to their full potential, and may decrease the need for additional help later in life.

Referral and Eligibility

If you have, or anyone who knows your child has concerns about your child's development, Early Intervention (EI) services may help. You may request a no cost evaluation and/or assessment at any time to help answer your questions about your child's development.

Community Centered Boards (CCBs) are local agencies throughout Colorado that are responsible for implementing the local EI Colorado program and processing referrals for EI services.

Call 1.888.777.4041 to contact a CCB or [contact your local CCB](#) to make a referral.

Services

Once your child has been determined eligible for Early Intervention (EI) services and your service coordinator has conducted a Family Assessment, the next step is to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

The IFSP is your family's written plan for services. This document list the EI services your child needs to develop and learn and/or the services your family needs to support your child's development. IFSP outcomes will be functional and based on your concerns and priorities.

EI services are not intended to be the sole source of support for your family. Your service coordinator will identify the resources you are currently accessing or would like to be connected with. These supports will be identified on your IFSP, and may be the key to help your family reach the outcomes listed, or you may receive support from your own family and friends. Medical care and other services your child needs that are provided by specialists outside of the EI Colorado program will also be written on the IFSP, but it is important to note that these specific services are not provided by EI.

Services— *continued*

Your service coordinator will always get your consent before services begin, or if there is a change in services. Services are required to start within 28 days from the time you give your consent, unless you request a later date.

Your IFSP will be reviewed at least every six months and can be reviewed earlier if you request. During the IFSP review the EI team will review your child and family's individual outcomes as well as look at your child's progress compared to peers of the same age. The IFSP will be rewritten on an annual basis and your child will be reassessed on an ongoing basis. The IFSP meeting must be held at times and locations that are convenient for your family. You will be an active team member and key decision maker throughout the planning and implementation process.

This process will continue until it has been determined that your child no longer needs EI services to continue making developmental progress, if you choose to exit from services, or when your child turns three and transitions out of EI services.

Transition Services

If your child is still involved in the Early Intervention (EI) program as they approach their third birthday, you will begin planning steps for their transition out of the EI program. This process can begin as soon as your child turns two-years and three-months old. At this time, your service coordinator will schedule an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting during which time you and members of your IFSP team will develop a transition plan as part of your child's IFSP. The transition plan will document the steps and services to support a smooth transition when your child reaches the age of three. The transition plan must be completed by the time your child reaches two-years and nine-months of age.

If your child has not met all (IFSP) outcomes and is demonstrating a developmental delay, he or she is considered potentially eligible for preschool special education services and his or her information will be shared with your local school district unless you have chosen to opt out of this notification. Your service coordinator will discuss other options for your child if you choose to not pursue preschool special education services. Other options may include private therapy sessions, other community or faith based preschools, Head Start, or other programs in your community that will support the ongoing development of your child. If your child is eligible for preschool special education services, a representative from the school district will be required to participate in a transition conference. You may invite anyone you wish to attend such as your child care provider(s), relative(s), or other professionals working with your child and family. This conference must occur by the time your child reaches two-years and nine-months of age.



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