

What is Early Intervention?

Parents and professionals work together to help infants and toddlers develop and learn. The core of the program is the belief that the parent is the first and best teacher for their child.



Children learn and grow at their own rate. While some children may need extra help through their critical developmental stage, there are plenty of resources to aid in their learning and growth. Since infants and toddlers grow and learn quickly, it is important to get the necessary help as early as possible if you or your doctor have any concerns about your child's development.



The EARLY START Program at Kern Regional Center provides services and support for infants, toddlers, and their families so that they may learn fundamental activities and routines that are important for development. Learning happens in the every day moments you share with your child as well as the special memories you create with them.

Who can make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral, including: health care providers, hospital social workers, family members, foster parents, and day care providers. As a parent you can refer your child to the EARLY START Program if you suspect a concern with your child's development. Parents must then give permission to have their child evaluated.

How will I know if my child qualifies for services?

After speaking with an Intake Coordinator, they will determine if there is a concern regarding your child's development, and an appointment for an assessment will be scheduled with you and your child. During this appointment they will consider the following: information you have given, the results from the Developmental Assessment, and observation of your child to determine whether your child needs assistance with their development and learning.

What happens next if my child is eligible for the program?

Your child will be assigned a Service Coordinator who will work with you to develop a plan based on your concerns, the results of the assessment, and team discussions. The plan will have goals for working with you to help your child do things that are important to their development. This plan is called the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP also lists the services that are needed to meet your goals.

Is there a cost for services?

Depending on family income, an Annual Fee may be required. Some services may be funded through your insurance. There is no cost for assessment, evaluation, or Service Coordination.

What services will be provided?

In addition to service coordination, there a variety of services and supports; each are based on the individual need of the child and family; however, the purpose of all early intervention services is to help you learn ways to aid your child in their learning and development. learn ways to encourage be focused on your child's social/emotional development.

Research shows that social and emotional development is the foundation for all other learning and development. The positive relationship you have with your child will encourage their development. Building that relationship only "takes a minute" but the results will last a lifetime.

For more information please visit earlystartneighborhood.ning.com



"Our values are guided by our commitment to serve our clients and all who serve them"

