



# Working with Early Intervention as a Child Care Provider

## What is Early Intervention?

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Bureau of Early Intervention (EI) serves infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months who have developmental delays or disabilities or who are at risk for developmental delays. EI is voluntary for families, and builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through every day learning opportunities. **You are an important member of the team that cares about the child!**

### Referral

- Talk with the parent if you have concerns about a child's development.
- Call 1-800-323-4769 or visit <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/ei> so that you can share information about how to contact the local CFC office.
- As a primary referral source, you are required to refer if you have concerns about a child's development. It is recommended, however, that you discuss your intent to refer with the parent.

### Intake

- During intake, a service coordinator will share information about the early intervention program, collect information about the child and family, and begin identifying the child's and family's strengths, needs and resources.
- The service coordinator will then schedule evaluations based on the family's concerns.

### Evaluation & Assessment

- An evaluation will be conducted by at least two evaluators. The evaluators will work with the service coordinator and family to determine the child's eligibility for the program as well as to determine the child's developmental strengths and challenges.
- Families may ask you to contribute information to this process so that everyone understands the child's functioning across settings and situations.

### Planning

- If the child is eligible, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed to identify meaningful, functional outcomes for the child and family and the services that will help the family achieve those outcomes.
- The frequency, intensity and location for service delivery will be discussed at this time.

### Intervention

- You may be asked to share information about the routines in your childcare setting to assist with outcome and strategy development and implementation. The family may request that you allow intervention to occur in your setting so that you can assist in implementing strategies that will enhance the child's development.
- The interventionists will answer your questions, share desired resources and support you as the team works together.



## Working Together

- Since you spend a great deal of time with the children in your care, you know them well. Share the child's interests and preferences (toys, friends, games, songs) as well as information about your daily routines with the EI provider.
- Provide opportunities for children to play and practice new skills during routines such as play, mealtimes, diaper changes, and dressing.
- During EI visits, observe the interaction, ask the EI provider questions about the activities, and discuss ways that you are supporting the children.
- Identify both formal and informal support services that you can share with the family, e.g. play groups, parent support groups, educational websites.

## During an EI visit

- **Intervention takes place during naturally occurring activities and routines in your classroom.** There is no need to remove the child from the classroom or activity for EI visits. You can prepare for the visit by considering where the child is succeeding and where there are still challenges.
- **The provider will model and explain strategies that foster the child's development and allow you time to practice these strategies with the child.** The provider is also available to answer your questions and provide resources when needed.
- **The EI provider will leave a note about the visit for the parents to read.** You can talk with families about the strategies and their child's response to the strategies.

## Resources

### Early Intervention Training Program at the University of Illinois

[eitp.education.illinois.edu](http://eitp.education.illinois.edu)

EITP is Illinois' professional development system for EI providers, and their site includes a calendar of training events and resources on a variety of related topics.

### Gateways to Opportunity

[www.ilgateways.com/en/](http://www.ilgateways.com/en/)

A statewide professional development support system designed to provide guidance and recognition to individuals and programs serving children and families.

### Illinois Early Learning Project

[illinoisearlylearning.org](http://illinoisearlylearning.org)

Provides information about learning and development guidelines in Illinois as well as resources for staff and parents on early childhood topics.

### Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse

[www.eiclearinghouse.org](http://www.eiclearinghouse.org)

A library of videos, books, and journals related to young children with special needs and their families. This free resource ships materials directly to families. The website links to other resources in the state and nation.

### Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc> and search "Special Quest Library"

This site has training for including infants and toddlers with disabilities in the classroom.



Watch a video on EI and Child Care to learn more!  
<http://go.illinois.edu/ElandChildCare>