



The South Dakota Birth to Three Early Intervention Program serves children from birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

You Are Important!

You are your child's most important teacher and caregiver.

You know your child better than anyone else. Share your child's likes and dislikes with your Early Intervention (EI) team.

Provide opportunities for your child to play and practice new skills during routines such as meal times, diaper changes and dressing.

During home visits, take an active role and ask your EI provider questions about the activities.

What is Early Intervention?

- A family-focused, in-home service for children from birth to 36 months of age with developmental delays
- A system of services and supports for families to help understand their child's development and specific training to assist the family in addressing these areas of delay
- A process that helps the adults in a child's life learn to help the child develop
- A collaboration with the child's parents, caregivers, childcare providers, professionals and others – not just the child!
- A voluntary system

What is *not* Early Intervention?

- An interventionist bringing a bag of toys and playing with a child while the parent does something else
- A program that addresses only the child
- A program with no specific goals or objectives
- A person telling a family what to do without asking for input

What is the key to success of Early Intervention?

- Partnering with families
- Supporting families so that intervention can happen all day, every day – not just when the professional is present
- Family-centered process that is customized to your family

“We appreciate so much all that was done for our little one and for us too. Our little one is on the way and is looking forward to a happy and fulfilling life. Our toddler is happy with confidence and self-esteem. Thank you for helping us develop that!”

The Early Intervention Team

This is a list of the most common early interventionists. Members are selected based on your family's needs.

Service Coordination

Provides organization for the EI team and focuses on ensuring the family's needs are being met.

Special Instruction (SI/ECSE)

Provides support for a child's development in cognitive (thinking skills) and social interaction.

Occupational Therapy (OT)

Provides support and promotes the development of infants and toddlers in everyday routines. OT also targets sensory needs as well as fine motor development.

Physical Therapy (PT)

Provides support for a child's positioning, movement and coordination to facilitate participation in family and community life.

Speech and Language Pathology (SLP)

Provides support for a child's language, communication, and oral-motor development.

Other team members may include social workers, audiologists, behavior specialists, mental health professionals, vision specialists, nurses, nutritionists/dieticians, psychologists, and others.

An Early Intervention Visit

- ✓ **Support** – You and your provider will work with your child to increase participation in everyday activities. Your provider may watch you with your child to give you new ideas and show you ways to support your child.
- ✓ **Coaching and Learning** – With the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) team's child outcomes and family priorities in mind, the provider serves as a coach showing you strategies for working with your child and helping your child learn. You can practice these strategies with your provider's support and ask questions to ensure you are using the strategies correctly. The provider may suggest additional supports that your family might find helpful. The provider will help you plan ways to use what you have learned during the visit as part of daily life with your child.
- ✓ **Focus and Follow-up** – Your early intervention provider will ask what changes you've seen in your child and how things have been going since your last visit.
 - You and the provider will come up with a focus for the visit at the beginning of the session together.
 - Review notes from your last meeting and consider new information about your child and family that the provider may need to know.
- ✓ **Questions** – Feel free to ask questions about how and why these strategies were chosen and how you can use them in daily activities.

"I was very impressed with the services offered to my child and our family. I have been able to understand and communicate with my child more and I know how to get my child the help needed for the future."



Where to Get More Information



South Dakota Birth to Three, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3678, 800-305-3064, www.doe.sd.gov/Birthto3/