

Department of Human Services (DHS), these three agencies work together with local Interagency Early Intervention Committees (IEICs) to provide coordinated interagency services—such as effective Child Find activities, early identification, and early intervention—and funding for each eligible child and his or her family. Local communities work together through their IEICs to better address the complex needs of young children with disabilities and their families.

Who is eligible for Early Childhood Intervention?

In Minnesota, “Early childhood special education must be available to pupils from birth to seven years of age who have a substantial delay or disorder in development or have an identifiable sensory, physical, mental, or social/emotional condition or impairment known to hinder normal development and who need special education.” (MN Rule 3525.1350)

Children are determined to be eligible following an initial multi-disciplinary evaluation, if they meet criteria established for any of the special education categories. These categories may include autism spectrum disorders, deaf-blind, developmental delay, emotional or behavioral disorder, physically impaired, and/or specific learning disability. The thirteen specific disability criteria can be found at <http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/3525/>.



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A Pediatric Practitioner's Guide

Referring a Child to Early Childhood Intervention In Minnesota

What should I do if a child is not developing as he or she should?

Refer the child to Early Childhood Intervention for further developmental assessment as soon as possible. The first three

years of life are critical to a child's future potential. Intensive, well-designed and timely intervention can improve the prospects—and the quality of life—for many children who are considered at risk for cognitive, physical, sensory, social, or emotional developmental delays. In some cases, effective intervention can ameliorate conditions once thought to be virtually untreatable, such as autism. Well-implemented programs can brighten a child's future and lessen the impact a developmental disorder has on the family. It can lead a child to greater independence, better participation in the community, and a more productive and fulfilling life.

What is Early Childhood Intervention?

Early Childhood Intervention is a statewide, interagency initiative developed to provide services to infants and toddlers from birth to three with disabilities, as well as support for their families. The Minnesota Department of Children, Families & Learning (CFL) is designated by the state as the lead agency for this family centered program (also known as Part C). Along with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and