

What is Early Intervention?

Parents and Professionals Working Together to Help Babies Develop and Learn.



Babies learn and grow at their own rate. Some babies need a little extra help. Since babies grow and learn quickly, it is important to get extra help as early as possible if you or your baby's doctor have any concerns about your baby's development.

The Early Start Program at Alta California Regional Center provides supports and services for babies and their families so that families can help their child learn during everyday activities and routines.

This is called **early intervention**.

Who can make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral, including parents, health care providers, neighbors, family members, foster parents, and day care providers. As a parent....you can refer your child to Early Start if you suspect a problem or delay. Parents must give permission to have their child evaluated.

How do I know if my child qualifies for services?

Information from you, your child's doctor and from observing your child through assessment is all used to find out whether he or she needs some extra help with his or her development and learning.

What happens next if my child is eligible for early intervention?

If your baby is eligible, your service coordinator will work with you to develop a plan based on what your child needs. The plan will set out goals for working with you to help your baby do things that are important to his growth. This is called the Individualized Family Service Plan, or IFSP.

The IFSP also lists the services that are needed to meet your goals keeping in mind your concerns, priorities and resources.

Where will early intervention services be provided?

For most children and families, early intervention services are provided at the family's home. Services are also provided at other places in the community, like parks, child care, community centers, and other places where children and families spend time.

What can I expect from early intervention services?

A variety of supports and services are available for eligible children and their families. The purpose of all early intervention services is to help you help your child learn and develop. Families are the first and most important teachers for their children. Since babies learn by watching, exploring, and practicing things, early intervention service providers help your family learn ways to help your child learn and practice new skills throughout each day.

How much will early intervention cost?

There is no cost for evaluation, assessment and service coordination. Public or private insurance is accessed for medically necessary services including speech, physical and occupational therapies.

Who should I talk to if I'm concerned about my baby's development?

Contact Us

To speak to an Early Start Intake Coordinator call:

Alta California Regional Center

(916) 978-6249

(916) 978-6647 (En Espanol)

Visit us on the web:
www.altaregional.org

Offices in Sacramento, Roseville, Placerville, South Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Grass Valley, Woodland and Yuba City

Things to Remember

Alta
California
Regional
Center

Early Start Program

Providing early intervention services to infants and toddlers birth to 36 months

