



## Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

DEL's Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program provides services to children birth to age 3 who have disabilities or developmental delays. Eligible infants and toddlers and their families are entitled to individualized, quality early intervention services in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.

Early intervention services are designed to enable young children to be active, independent and successful participants in a variety of settings—in their homes, in child care, in preschool programs and in their communities.

In Washington, referrals to early intervention services are provided through Local Lead Agencies. Family Resources Coordinators help families access the early intervention services their child may need. They also help families get a free developmental screening and suggest other community resources.

Primary early intervention services include:

- Family resources coordination
- Developmental services (infant/toddler teacher/early childhood special education teacher)
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Speech/language therapy
- Assistive technology

### Expected outcomes

Infants and toddlers who receive early intervention services will:

- Demonstrate positive social-emotional skills, including social relationships.
- Acquire and use knowledge and skills including early language, communication and early literacy.
- Use appropriate behaviors to get their needs met.

### **Fast facts:**

Early intervention service delivery for State Fiscal Year 2013:

- 6,080 infants/toddlers and their families served at any one time
- 12,550 eligible infants/toddlers and their families received services
- 30% of toddlers exiting early intervention did not qualify for special education at age 3
- 94% of infants/toddlers and families received services in their natural environment
- 87% of families surveyed reported early intervention helped them to help their child develop and learn
- 90% of families reported early intervention helped them effectively communicate their child's needs

Families will:

- Know their rights.
- Effectively communicate their child's needs.
- Help their child develop and learn.

**Early intervention service delivery**

28 Local Lead Agencies around the state:

- 3 county health departments
- 4 county human services agencies
- 1 combined health and human services agency
- 15 nonprofit agencies
- 5 educational service districts