

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Early Intervention Referrals

Information for Health Care Professionals

What is Early Intervention (EI)?

- A system of family-centered services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays.
- Qualified providers who offer a variety of specialized services including: feeding therapy, physical therapy and service coordination.
- Therapy and caregiver coaching conducted in home and community environments.

Who is eligible?

Families with a child under 3 years old with a developmental delay or a diagnosis with a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay.

What does it cost?

- Evaluation is at no cost to the family.
- For ongoing services, insurance may be accessed and the family may be responsible for some of the cost, based on income.

How do I refer?

- Families can call directly or, with the family's permission, health care professionals can call or fax.
- Find local contact information at www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit or call Help Me Grow Washington at 1-800-322-2588.
- Fax the ESIT Referral to the local EI provider agency.

When should I refer?

- Referring while an infant is still in the hospital will make for a faster and smoother transition to EI services and increase the positive outcomes the child and family will experience.
- Primary referral sources, such as health care professionals, must refer families to EI **within seven days** of identifying a developmental delay or a condition that could lead to a delay, unless the family requests a timeline extension or requests that a referral not be made. [IDEA Part C Code of Federal Regulations (§303.303(a)(2)(i)).

What supporting documentation should I include with referral?

- Official documentation of all medical and developmental diagnoses and therapies received.
- Any prior developmental assessment, evaluation or screening results, including vision and hearing screening.



What happens next?

When you make a referral, EI staff will:

- Communicate with the family and the hospital team to begin coordinating care. This can happen before discharge.
- Complete eligibility and enrollment procedures within 45 days from time of referral, if the family is ready.
- Coordinate a team of EI professionals to deliver needed services.
- If a child does not qualify for services, the EI program will provide the family information on other resources.

Family Referral Rights

To ensure families are fully informed of their rights, primary referral sources, such as health care professionals, must:

- Provide families with information about EI services and inform them that the referral does not commit them to participation in the EI program.
- Maintain written documentation of the parent's permission to refer, the parent's request that a referral not be made or the parent's request to extend the seven-day referral timeline.
*Per IDEA Part C Code of Federal Regulations (§303.303(a)(2)(i)).

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