

***A GUIDE
TO
KNOWING
YOUR
RIGHTS***



***TO LEARN
MORE
ABOUT THIS
PROGRAM***

***CALL
1 (800) 643-8258***

***FAX:
(501) 682-8687***

***TDD:
(501) 682-1332***

***ARKANSAS
EARLY
INTERVENTION***



***FAMILIES
HAVE
RIGHTS***

WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION?

Early Intervention services help infants and toddlers with special health and developmental needs learn and grow. Early intervention services and supports are planned and delivered through a partnership between families and professionals. Early Intervention coordinates services to meet the developmental needs of the child within the context of the family.

Early Intervention services are designed to help your child reach his or her individual potential. They are provided by qualified professionals and may include, but are not limited to: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nutrition services, psychological services, parent support groups and family counseling.

All primary referral sources, including health care and child care providers, must refer a child identified as having a possible developmental delay or disability to the Early Intervention services system within two working days after the child has been identified.

TO HAVE ASSISTANCE:

All Part C eligible children have the right to case management services to assist parents in applying for and accessing services for which the applicant is eligible.

Each public agency must ensure that the rights of children are

protected.

SURROGATE PARENT IS ASSIGNED WHEN:

- * No parent can be identified.
 - * Surrogate parent must stand in for parents.
 - * Surrogate parent represents the child in matters.
 - * Person assigned as a surrogate parent not be an employee of any agency involved in the provision of E.I. Services.
 - * Person selected must have no interest that conflicts with the interest of the child.
 - * Has knowledge and skills to represent child
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FAMILY RIGHTS

All families with a child age birth to 3 years who are **eligible** for Early Intervention services in Arkansas are guaranteed certain rights by law.

*** TO HAVE SERVICES PROVIDED IN A TIMELY MANNER:**

Parents have the right to an evaluation and assessment of their infant or toddler's functioning and have a right to a meeting to develop the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days after they are referred. The 45-day period may be extended if the family request more time or if there are exceptional circumstances. The plan must be reviewed every six months. The family may request an earlier review.

*** TO GIVE PERMISSION**

Parents have the right to approve or disapprove before their child

is evaluated or receives any services. Parents have the right to decline services at any point without affecting any other services.

*** TO UNDERSTAND:**

Parents must receive written notice before any Early Intervention services are started or changed. The notice must be in your language and easily understood by parents.

*** TO PRIVACY:**

Any information that personally identifies you, your child or your family, cannot be shared with any other agency without first receiving your permission. If the Early Intervention services providers feel it would be beneficial to share information, they must contact you, explain the situation and ask for your written permission. You don't have to give your permission, and refusing will not affect your services.

*** TO REVIEW RECORDS:**

Parents may inspect, review and amend records relating to their child and family. They may also request a copy of any records.

*** TO DISAGREE:**

If parents and the Early Intervention services providers disagree about eligibility, assessment results, or services, the law provides for timely resolution. While the disagreement is being resolved, the child must continue to receive Early Intervention services unless the parents and services provider agree otherwise.