



What If I Have Concerns About my Child’s Development?

Your Child’s Development

- Children develop skills and abilities in four main areas: language, movement, social/emotional, and thinking.
- All children develop differently. They learn skills at different rates and at different times.
- If you are concerned that your child may have a developmental delay, you can have him evaluated.

Children Under 3—Early Intervention

- The Early Intervention program in New York State is run through the State Health Department. It offers many free support services to eligible families of infants and toddlers with diagnosed disabilities.
- If you are concerned about your child’s development and would like her to be evaluated, you can visit the NY State Public Health Department’s website at http://www.health.state.ny.us/community/infants_children/early_intervention/county_eip.htm or call the New York State “Growing Up Healthy” 24-hour Hotline at 1-800-522-5006 for the contact person in your county.

The Early Intervention Process

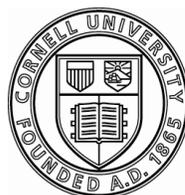
Setting up an Evaluation

If you think Early Intervention could help your child, you will need to have her evaluated. The evaluation will look at the four main areas of development and help you:

- Find out if your child is eligible for early intervention services.
- Gather facts about your child’s strengths and needs that will help you make good decisions about services.

An *Initial Service Coordinator* will meet with you to:

- Explain the early intervention program and evaluation.
- Help you pick someone in your county to do the evaluation.
- Help set up the evaluation and transportation if you need it.



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After the Evaluation

If the evaluation shows that your child is eligible for the Early Intervention program, then your Initial Service Coordinator will:

- Answer your questions about the program.
- Work with you to write your *Individualized Family Service Plan* (IFSP). The IFSP will give details about goals for your child and your family. It will state what services will be provided, as well as what will be expected of your family to help you reach those goals.

What if your child is not eligible for Early Intervention services?

- Your Initial Service Coordinator will tell you about other services that can help.
- You can appeal the decision.

Children 3 and up—Contact Your Local School District

If your preschool-age child (ages 3-5) did not receive early intervention services, but you have some concerns about delays in development such as difficulty in talking, moving around, thinking, or learning you should contact the chairperson of your school district's *Committee on Preschool Special Education* (CPSE) who will help you get an evaluation for your child.

If you have concerns about your school-age child's development, you should talk to your child's teacher and then contact the chairperson of your school districts *Committee on Special Education* (CSE) to get your child evaluated.

The evaluation is free and will tell you and the school:

- If your child has a disability.
- What kind of services the school needs to provide to help your child.

If the evaluation shows that your child is eligible for special education and related services, then you and the Committee on Special Education will write an *Individualized Education Plan* (IEP) for your child. The IEP will describe your child's educational program, including special services your child will receive.

What if your child is not eligible for special education services?

- Talk to your child's teacher or the CSE committee for ideas about ways you can help at home and other services that may be available at school or in the community.

Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)

Families and Communities Together with Schools

Cornell Cooperative Phone: 315-788-8450
Extension of Jefferson County Fax: 315-788-8461
203 North Hamilton Street Web: www.nyspirc.org
Watertown, New York 13601 Email: info@nyspirc.org

This publication was produced in whole or in part with funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Parental Information and Resource Center program, under grant #84.310.A. The content herein does not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Education, any other agency of the U.S. government, or any other source.

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Revised 4/09