

EARLY INTERVENTION

For some, small things have a big impact





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THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

People Inc.'s Early Intervention Program provides services for children up to the age of three with diagnosed or suspected developmental delays.

The Early Intervention Program provides services that encourage your child's growth and development. The program also helps you better understand your child's individual needs and how you can enhance his or her development.

This program is funded by the *Erie County Department of Health* and the *New York State Department of Health Early Intervention Program*. All children under the age of three years of age who may need Early Intervention services must be referred to the Early Intervention Official (EIO) in the county in which the child resides. The telephone number in Erie County is 716.858.6161. To be eligible for ongoing services, the child must meet NYS Early Intervention Program Guidelines. All children referred to the EIO have the right to a multidisciplinary evaluation, at no cost to the parent, to determine if they are eligible for services.

EARLY INTERVENTION HELP CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Young children learn and develop differently. Some young babies may walk earlier than others, while some others might talk first. Often, these differences will even out, but some children need extra help.

Look for signs that your child might need extra help. If your child does have a possible delay, the earlier you get help, the better. You can find that help through the Early Intervention Program.

INITIAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL EVALUATION

An initial evaluation is completed to determine the child's eligibility for services. All services are provided at no cost to the family. Families can choose an approved agency to perform the evaluation, and provide ongoing service coordination.

People Inc. is an approved provider of the Early Intervention Program, including therapy services.

Service can be provided in individual and/or group settings. Approved services may be provided at your home, a community-based setting or at People Inc.'s Elmwood Health Center.

ONGOING SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Hearing Evaluations
- Nutrition Counseling
- Special Education Teacher
- Infant Massage

SERVICE COORDINATION

Service coordinators assist families to determine and access services that will help their child develop. They also provide crisis intervention and oversee the coordination between the family and professional service providers.

CONTACT

For more information, call 716.880.3700.