



FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WITH SCHOOLS

How do I choose an early intervention service provider?

What is Early Intervention?

- The Early Intervention program in New York State is run through the State Department of Health. It offers many **free** support services to eligible families of infants and toddlers with diagnosed special needs.
- 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 www.health.state.ny 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

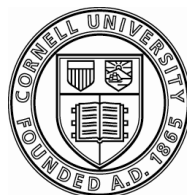
If the initial early intervention evaluation shows that your child is eligible for the Early Intervention program, then your Initial Service Coordinator will:

- 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, how often the services will be provided, as well as what will be expected of your family to help you reach those goals.
- Help you choose an **early intervention service provider** to provide services for your family.

What is an early intervention service provider?

An early intervention service provider is the person or agency your family chooses to help you carry out the *Individualized Family Service Plan* and provide services to your family in order to help your child work on developmental skills. The service provider may provide services such as:

- Family training, counseling, home visits, and parent support groups
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Speech-language services



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Jefferson County

Where are the early intervention services provided?

- *Home- and community-based visits*—services are given to a child and/or caregiver at home or in the community (such as a relative's home, child care center, family day care home, play group, library story hour, or other places parents go with their children).
- *Facility or center-based visits*—services are given to a child and/or caregiver where the service provider works (such as an office, a hospital, a clinic, or early intervention center).
- *Parent-child groups*—parents and children get services together in a group led by a service provider. A parent-child group can happen anywhere in the community.
- *Family support groups*—parents, grandparents, siblings, or other relatives of the child get together in a group led by a service provider for help and support and to share concerns and information.
- *Group developmental intervention*—children receive services in a group setting led by a service provider or providers without parents or caregivers. A group means two or more children who are eligible for early intervention services. The group can include children without disabilities and can happen anywhere in the community.

Tips for Choosing a Service Provider

- Make sure the provider is approved by New York State.
- Meet with the service provider and make sure that you and your child are comfortable.
- If your child is going to be attending a program in a new setting, visit the program to see how things work.
- Ask the service provider anything that you have questions or concerns about, such as:
 - How long have you been providing early intervention services?
 - What will a typical early intervention session be like for my child?
 - What do you expect of me?

Families and Communities Together with Schools Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)

Cornell Cooperative

Extension of Jefferson County Phone: 315-788-8450

203 North Hamilton Street Fax: 315-788-8461

Watertown, New York 13601 www.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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Please contact the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Jefferson County if you have special needs or are unable to pay.