



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

*Early Childhood
Intervention*

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is a statewide program within the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for families with children birth up to age 3, with developmental delays, disabilities or certain [medical diagnoses \(https://diagsearch.hhsc.state.tx.us/\)](https://diagsearch.hhsc.state.tx.us/) that may impact development. ECI services support families as they learn how to help their children grow and learn. We wanted to provide you with a short “ECI At-A Glance.” Let’s check and see how much you know!!

DID YOU KNOW...

- A newborn’s brain is 25% of the weight of an adult’s brain.
- The birth-to-3 period is the fastest rate of brain development across the entire human life span.
- By age 3, a child's brain has reached nearly 90% of its adult size.

Most astounding is the fact that the fastest rate of brain development occurs from birth to age 3. This definitely has direct impact on the work that Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) does in early intervention because early childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have life-long effects which means early childhood is a period of both great opportunity and vulnerability. Check out this video on [Early Brain Development \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNNsN9IJKws&feature=youtu.be\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNNsN9IJKws&feature=youtu.be).

DID YOU KNOW...

- Anyone who has a concern about a child’s development can make a referral to ECI.
- 55% of the referrals made to ECI come from the Medical and Health services community and
- 24% come from Parents/Family/Friends

In Fiscal Year 2016, ECI served over 54,000 children and their families in Texas. ECI has local contractors throughout the state and every zip code is covered to ensure that all families that are eligible for services are able to receive ECI services.

Texas Parent to Parent

1805 Rutherford Ln. ★ Suite 201 ★ Austin, TX 78754 ★ 866-896-6001 ★ 512-458-8600

website: www.txp2p.org ★ Email: info@txp2p.org

DID YOU KNOW...

There are three ways a child can qualify for ECI services:

- ***First, if the child has a medical diagnosis***

If a child has a medically diagnosed condition that is likely to cause a developmental delay and has a need for services, he or she will qualify for ECI services. (Examples of common qualifying medical diagnoses include:

- Down syndrome
- Cerebral Palsy
- Seizure disorder
- Failure to thrive

- ***Second, if the child has an auditory impairment or a visual impairment***

A child is also eligible for services if he or she has an auditory or visual impairment as defined by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

- ***And third, if the child has a developmental delay.***

To determine eligibility for a developmental delay, the ECI contractor administers a standardized, evaluation tool, the Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI) which evaluates all developmental domain areas including cognitive, social interactions, gross and fine motor skills, adaptive skills and communication. The child must have at least a 25 percent delay in 1 or more of these development.

DID YOU KNOW...

- Anyone can make a referral to ECI
- ECI services are provided by licensed and credentialed staff
- ECI services are provided where the child lives, learns or plays
- ECI Services are provided to families of all income levels

Early Intervention provides immediate and long term benefits for children and families. If you are concerned, don't wait. Call and find out more about ECI services. Call 1-877-787-8999 or visit the [ECI web page](http://www.hhs.texas.gov/eci) at www.hhs.texas.gov/eci. Here are some additional topics you may find of interest:

[ECI Resources \(https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/eci-resource-guidecentral-directory\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/eci-resource-guidecentral-directory): A robust collection of resources of interest to families of children with developmental delays or disabilities.

[ECI Professionals \(https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/career-opportunities-eci\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/career-opportunities-eci): ECI has licensed and credentialed professionals who provide services

[ECI Program Search \(https://citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us/\)](https://citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us/): Find a local ECI program in your area

Texas Parent to Parent

1805 Rutherford Ln. ★ Suite 201 ★ Austin, TX 78754 ★ 866-896-6001 ★ 512-458-8600

website: www.txp2p.org ★ Email: info@txp2p.org

[ECI Videos \(https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/eci-outreach-materials\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/eci-outreach-materials): Learn more about ECI from a family's perspective

[Information for Families \(https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/eci-information-families\)](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services/eci-information-families): Learn about the developmental milestones

Texas Parent to Parent

1805 Rutherford Ln. ★ Suite 201 ★ Austin, TX 78754 ★ 866-896-6001 ★ 512-458-8600

website: www.txp2p.org ★ Email: info@txp2p.org