



Hello from ECI



At Texas ECI, we know that parents are the most important people in their child's life and they know their child better than anyone. Parents are their child's first and best teacher. If a family chooses ECI for services, we encourage parents to participate in every step of the process, from deciding what kind of help their child and family may need to working daily with their child to help him grow and learn.

We're glad to have the opportunity to share information with Texas parents about ECI. Here is an overview of steps a parent and child will take in an ECI program.

STEP 1

Referral

A referral is made to ECI by someone who is concerned about a child's development or because a child has a medically diagnosed condition that may result in a developmental delay.

Who makes referrals to ECI?

Medical/Health Services - 35%
Parent/Family/Friend - 26%
Social Services - 29%
Other - 10%

STEP 2

Getting Started

A visit with the family is scheduled to determine if ECI services are needed and if the child is eligible for services. An **assessment** and **evaluation** are either performed during that visit or scheduled for a future time. If the child is determined eligible an IFSP (see description below) will be completed within 45 days. ECI does not have a waiting list.

*****Assessment - Helps identify a child's needs and strengths; a family's concerns, priorities and resources; and, the type and range of services needed.***

*****Evaluation - Tests that help determine a child's functional eligibility by gathering information about the child's development in five different areas.***

STEP 3

Texas Parent to Parent

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

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

An IFSP is a written plan for a child's and family's services, based on their individual needs. Along with the child's family and ECI staff, the IFSP team may include others, such as, the child's physician or caregiver. The team decides:

- What services are needed
- How often and where the services will be provided
- Who will provide the service
- Goals for the child and family
- Daily activities family and caregivers will do to help the child reach identified goals (Participation is key to ECI services).

STEP 4

Service Delivery

ECI services occur in familiar surroundings and places that are convenient for families such as the family's home, child care center or the local grocery store.

*Services are individualized and may include the following:

- Developmental Services
- Family Education and Training
- Counseling
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech Language Therapy
- Nutrition Services
- Nursing Services
- Assistive Technology
- Behavioral Intervention
- Psychological Services
- Services for Children with Auditory and Visual Impairment
- Service Coordination
- Social Work

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STEP 5

Transition

Transition is when a child leaves an ECI program. All children must leave by their 3rd birthday, or when they are no longer eligible. Transition is a process to help families decide what their child may need after leaving ECI. A child may transition to a public school program, Head Start, a private school, or other community services based on the child's needs.

Procedural Safeguards - Families and their children have rights that are designed to protect the family and child from the moment the family contacts ECI about their child's possible need for services. All families working with ECI receive a 'Parent Handbook' that fully explains these procedural safeguards.

Rights include:

- **Right to Know and Understand:** ECI must provide information in a way that can be understood before a family has to make a decision about services.
- **Right to Consent:** ECI must get permission (consent) from the family for almost any action that they take that affects the child.
- **Right to Adequate Notice:** "Prior written notice" must be given to a family to ensure they have enough time to plan to participate.
- **Right to Confidentiality:** Information that ECI learns about the child or family is confidential. With few exceptions, ECI cannot give this information to anyone without written consent.

Cost of Services

A common question is "What is the cost for ECI services?" Families enrolled in ECI participate in the Family Cost Share system which is designed so family's with the ability to pay share in the cost of services. It is based on family income and size, and reimbursement from public and private insurance. No family is turned away because of an inability to pay. Please visit <http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/publications/index.shtml#familycost> for further information about the ECI Family Cost Share system.

If you want more information about ECI go to www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/. To find an ECI program in your community, call the DARS Inquiries Line at 1-800-628-5115.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) is a division within the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). ECI programs provide services to families with children birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities.

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