



Welcome from Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)



Texas Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) and Texas Parent to Parent are working together to inform parents and professionals about our services. Every quarter, we'll highlight ECI topics, share family stories and answer questions you may have about ECI. We believe this is a great way for us to share information and update you about ECI.

ECI provides supports and services to families with children birth to 36 months with developmental delays or disabilities. Specialists in early intervention help families and caregivers strengthen their ability to improve their child's development through everyday activities in the home and community.

The state agency responsible for Texas Early Childhood Intervention is The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). DARS contracts with 56 local agencies and organizations to provide services in every Texas County employing over 2,800 staff. ECI's state office is located in Austin.

In 2011, ECI will celebrate 30 years of service to Texas children and families. Texas ECI was the result of parents coming together to advocate for services on behalf of their children with special needs. In the late 1970's, families carried their unique stories to the Texas legislature and as a result of their persistence and dedication the ECI program was created.

Here is ECI at a Glance:

- ECI Professionals have knowledge and experience working with infants and toddlers and their families.
- ECI works in partnership with families, caregivers and providers.
- ECI services are provided in places convenient for the family, such as in their home or at the local park.
- ECI helps parents teach children new skills through everyday activities.
- ECI services are authorized in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)
- ECI served over 61,215 Texas children and their families in 2010.

With each article we will highlight some of our frequently asked questions like:

Texas Parent to Parent

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Who works for ECI?

ECI professionals work together with the family to focus on ways the family can support their child's development within their everyday routines and activities. The licensed or credentialed professionals include:

- Speech Language Pathologists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physical Therapists
- Social Workers
- Counselors
- Nurses
- Psychological Associates
- Dieticians
- Early Intervention Specialists

How do I know if there is an ECI program in my area?

ECI offers early intervention services in every county in Texas. You can find the ECI program in your community by calling the DARS Inquires Line at 1-800-628-5115 or at the DARS-ECI website www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/ Families may contact their local ECI program if they have questions about services for their child.

Stay tuned quarterly for the next topic from ECI!!

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