



eligibility criteria

Early Start is a program provided under Part C of IDEA. California's Early Start program focuses on the health, development, and well being of young children birth through 35 months, who have a delay in development or have an established risk condition for having a developmental disability.

Developmental Delay — children who have a significant delay in development:

Adaptive: ability to eat, dress and accomplish other self help tasks.

Communication: ability to understand and use language

Cognitive: ability to think and learn

Physical: ability to move, see and hear

Social/Emotional: ability to relate to others

Established Risk Condition: An established risk condition exists when an infant or toddler has a condition of known etiology which has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay or disability.

services available

Early Start services are intended to support a child's development. Early Start services, as identified on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), are recommended based on a child's individual needs and the family's concerns, priorities, and resources as well as per Part C regulations. Services may include:

- Service coordination; acts as a bridge between agencies in the community and the family
- Speech and language services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Infant education program
- Psychological services
- Audiology services
- Counseling
- Medical services for diagnosis and evaluation
- Assistive technology
- Transitional support to local education agency
- Family training and home visits

service delivery

Early Start services can be provided by or coordinated by regional centers, school districts, or county offices of education. Where and how services are provided is determined by the parent, the child's Early Start team, and local community resources. Services are to be provided in the child's natural environment to the maximum extent appropriate including the home and community setting in which children without disabilities participate

payment for services

Regional centers are required to access all sources of funding including: private insurance, Medi-Cal, California Children's Services, public school district programs, and community agencies

how to refer

Parents, medical professionals, community agencies, local education agencies, social workers, nurses, and others involved in a child's care may refer a child to the Early Start Program. Referrals sent to the ELARC Early Start Program should include any available information including birth records, current medical records, developmental information, and family contact information.

eligibility criteria

ELARC provides services to those residing within the Northeast, East LA, Whittier, and Alhambra health districts. The Prevention Program serves infants and toddlers 0-35 months who meet criteria in one of the following areas.

At Risk Factors (two or more of the following factors):

- 1] Prematurity: < 32 weeks &/or birth weight < 1500 grams.
- 2] Assisted ventilation for 48 hours or longer in the first 28 days of life.
- 3] Small for gestational age: below 3% on National Center for Health Statistics growth chart.
- 4] Asphyxia Neonatorum associated with five minute APGAR of 0-5.
- 5] Severe and persistent metabolic abnormality including but not limited to hypoglycemia, acidemia, and hyperbilirunienia in excess of the usual exchange transfusion level.
- 6] Neonatal seizures or non-febrile seizures during the first three years of life.
- 7] Central nervous lesion or abnormality.
- 8] Central nervous system infection.
- 9] Biomedical insult including but not limited to injury, accident, or illness which may seriously or permanently affect developmental outcome.
- 10] Multiple congenital anomalies or genetic disorders which may affect developmental outcome.
- 11] Prenatal exposure to known teratogens.
- 12] Prenatal substance exposure, positive infant neonatal toxicology screen or symptomatic neonatal toxicity or withdrawal.
- 13] Clinically significant failure to thrive, including but not limited to weight persistently below the 3% or less that 85 % of the ideal weight for age and/or acute weight loss or failure to gain weight with the loss of 2 or more major percentiles on the growth curve.
- 14] Persistent hypotonia or hypertonia, beyond that otherwise associated with a known diagnostic condition.

High Risk:

High risk for developmental disability also exists when the regional center determines that the parent of an infant or toddler is a person with a developmental disability.

Developmental Delay:

A toddler between the ages of 24-35 months with a developmental delay of 33-49% in one area. The developmental areas are: 1] cognitive, 2] physical/motor, 3] communication, 4] social/emotional, 5] adaptive skills.

services provided

The Prevention Program is funded by the State of California.

- Intake and assessment services
- Case management
- Developmental monitoring
- Parent education/support
- Information and referral to public and community agencies

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