



National Apostolate for
Inclusion Ministry

This Information Sheet is
based on the

*Parent Guide Finding Help for
Young Children with
Disabilities*

Published by the National
Information Center for
Children with Disabilities
online at

[http://www.nichcy.org/
pubs/parent/pa2txt.htm](http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/parent/pa2txt.htm)

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*Promoting the Full Participation of People with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities
(IDD) in the Life of the Catholic Church*

Infant or Toddler: Risk of Developmental Delays and Early Intervention

Your infant or toddler at risk for developmental delays may be eligible for early intervention services under the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) as implemented in your home State. Early intervention can help your child meet developmental goals. You should begin to seek help as soon as possible after learning of the diagnosis.

Finding Out About Early Intervention Services

Your county or city may provide service coordinators who can help you find specialized help for your child. Your first step is to find the service coordination agency near you.

- Locate a service coordination agency near you by contacting your State program for Infants and Toddlers using the states resource list provided by NICHCY at [HTTP://WWW.NICHCHY.ORG/STATES.HTM](http://WWW.NICHCHY.ORG/STATES.HTM).
- Ask your child's pediatrician for a referral.
- Get information from your local children's hospital.
- Call your local Arc or United Cerebral Palsy agency for information about early intervention services.

Finding Out if Your Child is Eligible for Services

Your child will need an evaluation or assessment before eligibility for services can be determined. Evaluations and assessments either may be provided free of charge or else may depend on your health insurance. Your service coordinator will help you with this process.

- Meet with a service coordinator at your county or city agency.
- Get a referral for a multidisciplinary assessment for your child.
- Bring your child to the specialist/s recommended for assessment.

Getting Services for Your Child

If the assessment indicates that your child is eligible for early intervention services, meet with the team assembled by your service coordinator to develop a list of services that will meet your child's specialized needs and the needs of your family.

- Service needs can include family training and counseling, occupational, physical and speech-language therapies, services for hearing impairments, glasses, braces, technological devices, etc.
- Develop an Individualized Family Service Plan, IFSP, with the team.
- Learn what, where and how services will be provided and determine who is responsible for paying for the various services – the range of public and private services available differs from state to state, county to county and city to city.

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- Keep a binder or notebook with names, addresses and phone numbers of agencies, coordinators, doctors, medical providers, therapists, parent groups and diocesan and parish contacts as well as books, products, toys and notes to yourself.
- Maintain a calendar of all appointments, meetings and services.