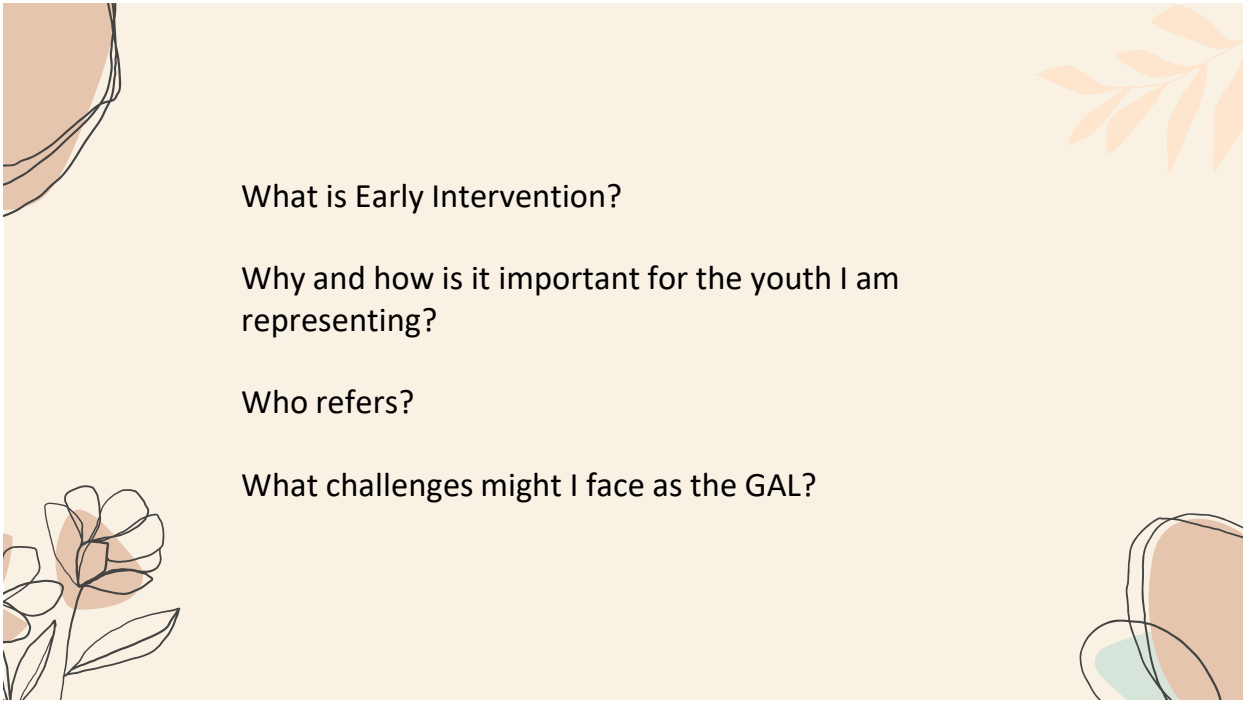


# Early Intervention (Birth to 3)

Basics for GALs and what to know

1



What is Early Intervention?

Why and how is it important for the youth I am representing?

Who refers?

What challenges might I face as the GAL?

2

# Learning Objectives

01

El Foundation/Overview

02

Indicators for screening:  
When and why to refer

03

Independent Investigation

04

The Assessment and  
follow up

05

Engaging parents and building  
their capacity to navigate the  
system

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## What are Early Intervention Services

- **Age Range:** Birth to 3 years of age
- **Evaluation around 5 areas of development:** cognitive (problem solving, play), social-emotional (interactions with others and self-soothing), physical (how a child moves), communication and language, and self-help/adaptive skills (such as feeding and dressing).
- **Services :** In the home, parent teaching focus on skills by professionals in specific developmental domains
- **Intent** - To help children who are delayed in developmental milestones have the best chance of catching up and coaching parents in developmental tools

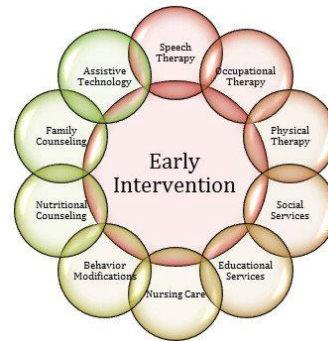


Resource: *Answers to Common Questions  
And Early Intervention Roadmap*

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## Examples of Services

- Assistive technology (devices a child might need)
- Audiology or hearing services
- Speech and language services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services



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## Foundation Basics about EI



Colorado Department  
of Early Childhood

<https://cdec.colorado.gov/early-intervention-for-infants-and-toddlers-with-developmental-delays>



Developmental Skills

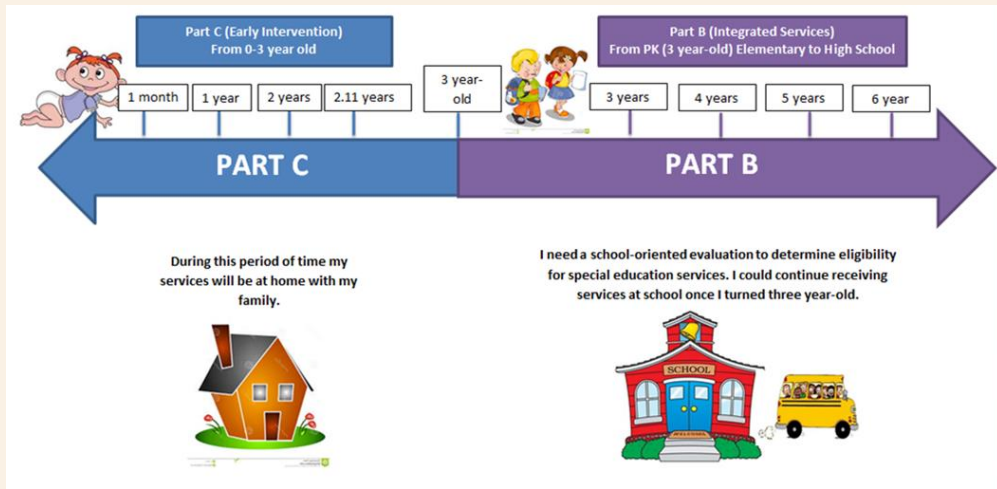
Delay of 25% or greater in  
two areas of development  
**or**  
Delay of 33% or  
greater in one area of development.



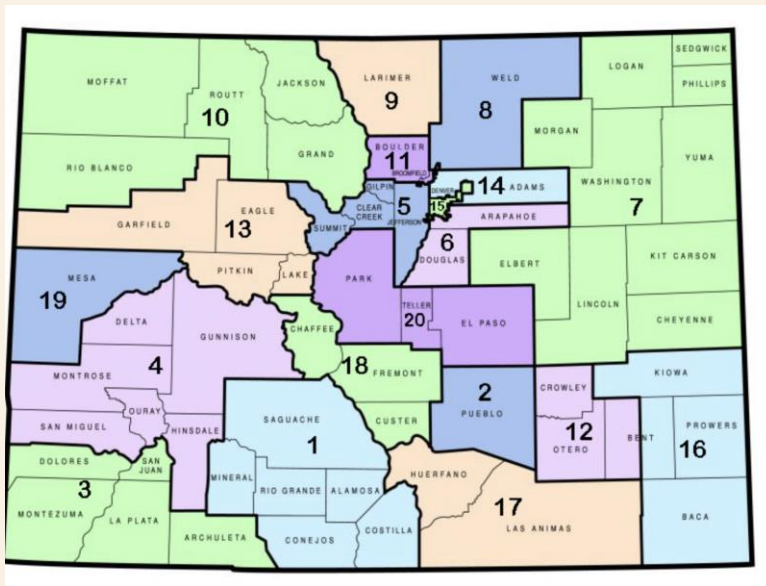
EI vs Child Find

Early Intervention is NOT the same  
as Child Find in schools  
EI and Part C of IDEA are the same

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7



Interactive map for local contacts

8

# Indicators for screening: When and why to refer



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## Identification and Referrals

8 CCR 1405-1 5.111.A.2.d

C.R.S. § 19-3-208

12 CCR 2509-4:7.301.243

### 5.111 CHILD IDENTIFICATION

This rule is promulgated pursuant to section 26.5-3-404, C.R.S.

The Early Intervention Program shall have a comprehensive Child Find system, pursuant to 34 C.F.R. Section 303.302., that focuses on the early identification of infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities, including a system for making referrals so that timely and rigorous identification in accordance with Rules 5.111(A)-(G), shall occur.

#### A. Referral

1. The Early Intervention Colorado Program or a Certified Early Intervention Service Broker shall work collaboratively with community partners and primary referral sources to develop effective procedures for referral of children, birth through two (2) years of age, to the Early Intervention Program, to identify infants and toddlers in need of early intervention services.
2. Referral of a child, birth through two (2) years of age, means a verbal or written notification from a referral source to the Early Intervention Colorado Program or a Certified Early Intervention Service Broker about a child who:
  - a. Is known to have or suspected of having a developmental delay;
  - b. Has an established condition, as defined in Rule 5.111(E);
  - c. Lives with a parent with a developmental disability;
  - d. Has been identified as the subject of a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect; or
  - e. Is identified as directly affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure.

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# Development Resources

Ages and Stages Questionnaires:

<https://www.broomfieldpediatrics.com/ages-stages-questionnaires/>

Staying On Track Developmental quick reference (in resources)

Potential Automatic Qualifying Diagnoses for EI list:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AkysbUYoJSXn0US\\_DHW-Zlkn22xU0d8l\\_99fEBY7NV8/edit#gid=1292800278](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AkysbUYoJSXn0US_DHW-Zlkn22xU0d8l_99fEBY7NV8/edit#gid=1292800278)

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## Referrals

Anyone can refer, this includes you.

- Contact your local Early Intervention region
- Online referral form through Early Intervention Colorado:  
[https://dcfs.my.salesforce-sites.com/eicolorado/OEC\\_EIReferralForm?lang=en](https://dcfs.my.salesforce-sites.com/eicolorado/OEC_EIReferralForm?lang=en)

Initial Referral Date?* 08/29/2023		Medical Diagnosis: <input type="text"/>	
Reason(s) For Referral:* <input type="checkbox"/> Adaptive <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive <input type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing and/or Vision <input type="checkbox"/> Medical concerns <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition or growth <input type="checkbox"/> Physical <input type="checkbox"/> Social and Emotional <input type="checkbox"/> Other		Details about Concerns: <input type="text"/>	
Parent/Guardian Information:			
Parent/Guardian First Name:* <input type="text"/>		Parent/Guardian Last Name:* <input type="text"/>	
Parent/Guardian Home Phone Number: <input type="text"/>		Parent/Guardian Cell Phone Number: <input type="text"/>	

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# Supporting/Counsel for EI

Early Intervention is voluntary and parent rights are intact, they decide and sign the consent for evaluation and services.

- Can counsel families and let them know what is available and why it's important for their child.
- Work with RPC to help inform and counsel parents to consent and agree to evaluation and/or services.
- Includes Kinship care and kids not DHS custody; making sure these kids have advocacy.

**Declining Participation in Early Intervention Colorado**

☐ I understand that my child may receive an evaluation to determine eligibility for early intervention services.

Or

☐ I understand that an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) can be developed for my child/family if my child is eligible for early intervention services through the Early Intervention Colorado program.

Or

☐ I understand that my child is eligible for early intervention services through the Early Intervention Colorado program and has a right to obtain the early intervention services outlined in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). I am fully aware of the reason for the services being offered and that my child will not be able to receive services through the Early Intervention Colorado program unless I give my consent.

And

☐ I choose not to have my child or family receive an evaluation/IFSP/ services through Early Intervention Colorado at this time. I understand that I may change my mind and, if I do, will call my service coordinator at the number provided on this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Service Coordinator      Date

**Parent(s)/Guardian Acknowledgment and Statement of Consent**

I acknowledge having received a copy of my rights under Part C of IDEA ([Notice of Child and Family Rights and Procedural Safeguards in the Early Intervention Colorado System](#)). These rights and information have been explained to me and I understand them. As discussed in this information, I have the right to file a complaint, request mediation, and/or an impartial due process hearing should I disagree with the above proposed or refused action(s).

I do ☐ do not ☒ give my informed consent for Early Intervention Colorado to carry out the activity(ies) described above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian      Date

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Independent Investigation

Find out if the child already involved in EI.

- If not: Make sure the referral has been made: it's a DHS requirement in suspected or substantiated abuse/neglect situations! DHS Case Worker should refer but GAL can also.
- If referred or in EI already:
  - Find out who the EI contact is (called Service Coordinators): Ask for IFSP and providers contacts. Talk to them
  - Talk to medical providers who have already provided services: Medical records may include Ages and Stages Questionnaires, Diagnoses, and therapy services.

As youth is approaching age 3, be sure Child Find is being triggered for pre-k evaluation and services

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## Engaging parents and building their capacity to navigate the system

- Strengths-based approach - build on existing capacities of child and caregivers
  - Potential to build parental capacity outside of case services
  - Parent driven, In-home
  - Services follow the child, regardless of placement or changes of placement
    - **Including a return home!**
  - Providers become a team with caregiver/parent and child
    - Empowering for a caregiver/parent
    - This can continue beyond the case
- Opportunity for collaboration
  - Connect with RPC and to explain the importance and assist parent to cooperate and engage with services.
  - Potential to avoid adjudication or support case goals more quickly
  - Explain interventions are not diagnoses—they are treating symptoms, not assessing causes
  - **An evaluation will not harm a parent's case.**
    - Consider a stipulation if that's a concern

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## Address Potential and Real Barriers

- Parent engagement/non-engagement
- Financial considerations
  - Insurance, transportation, work schedules
- Housing stability?
- Cleanliness/bedbugs?
  - Get DHS to address these barriers upfront
- Other barriers?

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