

IFSP FAQ Children 0 – 3

My child is under 3 and I'm concerned about their development, what do I do?

Every child is different, but there are some developmental milestones to expect as infants and toddlers grow. An important part of helping your child is to understand what typical child development can look like. Developmental milestone information is in the link below. If you are still concerned, please contact your child's pediatrician or you can locate the Regional Center in your area at the link below and reach out to them directly.

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/resources.html>

DDS <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/listings/>

My child is over 3 and I'm concerned about their development, what do I do?

Children over the age of three may be eligible for services through your local school system. You can also contact your child's pediatrician or you can locate the local Regional Center in your area at the link below and reach out to them directly.

CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/resources.html>

DDS <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/listings/>

My child is just a little slow in talking. Is that a problem?

Some children are a bit slower in learning to talk and sometimes it can be a reason for concern. Below is information on speech development and ways to help your child with language. If you are still concerned, please contact your child's pediatrician or you can locate the local Regional Center in your area at the link below and reach out to them directly.

ASHA <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/>

West Ed <https://earlystartneighborhood.ning.com/blog/more-than-baby-talk-10-ways-to-promote-the-language-and-communicate>

Speech Sound Development Chart <https://www.boisechatterbox.com/blog/speech-sound-development-chart>

My child is under 3 years old and has been referred to the Regional Center system due to concerns for developmental delay. What happens now?

A medical provider, an agency, or a parent themselves can refer their child to the Regional Center for an evaluation for developmental delays. If your child is eligible, you are entitled by both state and federal law to early intervention services. Once a referral has been received for a child under the age of 3, the evaluation process for eligibility takes place. After the evaluation, there will be a meeting within 45 days of your referral to discuss eligibility and next steps.

DRC <https://serr.disabilityrightsca.org/?s=ifsp+meeting>

SERR <https://serr.disabilityrightsca.org/serr-manual/chapter-12-information-on-early-intervention-services/>

My child has delays. Did I do something wrong?

Parents often feel guilty or think that they've done something wrong if their children are delayed in their development. Parents and caregivers may need someone to talk to about their feelings and concerns for their child. By speaking with the Family Resource Center in your area, you will see that you are not alone in how you feel. Family Resource Centers are often staffed by family members who share the same journey that you are on and can help you understand the process you are involved in. You can ask the Regional Center to connect you to your local Regional Center or you can reach out to them directly.

My child is eligible for Early Intervention Services. What is that?

Early intervention brings together resources and services, not only to help your child grow and learn, but also to provide support to your family to enhance your child's development. In California, Early intervention services are provided through the Early Start program and are provided by public and private programs that focus on the health and well-being of young children. These include regional centers, county offices of education or school districts, local education agencies, family support programs, and other service providers. Below is information on Early Start.

DDS https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/EarlyStart_StartingOutTogetherEng_20190205.pdf
FRCNCA <http://www.frcnca.org/>

What is an Individual Family Service Plan / IFSP?

An Individual Family Service Plan is a process for receiving Early Intervention / Early Start services. It is also a written document that outlines the plan the IFSP team creates. Parents are a big part of the team and the plan! Below is information on the IFSP and how to prepare for your meetings.

Understood <https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/treatments-approaches/early-intervention/ifsp-what-it-is-and-how-it-works>

Pacer <https://www.pacer.org/ec/early-intervention/ifsp.asp>

Where can I learn more about my child's delay or disability?

Learning about a child's delays or disability helps parents in many ways! It can lessen fears and can help with taking part in the planning and services for the child. Knowledge is power! There are many websites online that may be helpful, but beware of any site asking for personal information, or that is trying to sell you something.

My child has a chronic health condition, is there help for it?

California Children's Services (CCS) is a state program for children with certain diseases or health problems. Through this program, children up to 21 years old can get the health care and services they need. CCS will connect you with doctors and trained health care people who know how to care for your child with special health care needs.

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs>

My child is turning 3 and is eligible for continuing services, what happens now?

For eligible children, services will continue after the age of three but the services will move to a preschool program in the public education system and a different plan known as an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be developed. The IFSP will be replaced with a new Regional Center plan called the Individual Program Plan (IPP).

My child wasn't eligible for Early intervention or continuing services at age 3, what now?

It may be good news that your child isn't showing such significant signs of delay, but if you are concerned about being ineligible for services there is information on what steps you can take. There are also many websites for early education for parents to use on their own or in combination with Head Start programs and regular preschools.

Headstart <https://www.nhsa.org/>

Understood https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/treatments-approaches/early-intervention/6-things-to-do-if-youre-denied-early-intervention?_ul=1*159wwux*domain_userid*YW1wLV9ZcDMzbVo4RWdqQ2l3UE1PTzNJRHc.

What if I don't agree with my child's eligibility decision or the Early Intervention services that are being offered? Do I have rights?

While the hope is there won't be any disagreements in regard to your child's services, it can happen. Early Intervention services are covered in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Please see links below for more information and local resources that can assist you.

DRC: <https://serr.disabilityrightsca.org/serr-manual/chapter-12-information-on-early-intervention-services/>

OCRA: Brochure <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/system/files/file-attachments/501501.pdf> OR https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/what-we-do/programs/office-of-clients-rights-advocacy-ocra?post_type=193#tabs-by-post-type