



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Birth to 3 Early Intervention System

Delaware Birth to Three Early Intervention is a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system providing early intervention services and supports for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

Child Development Watch Referral and Processes At-A-Glance



Children and families receive early intervention supports and services through the Division of Public Health, Child Development Watch (CDW) program. Staff from a variety of state agencies work together to provide multidisciplinary assessments, service coordination, plan development, and service delivery to eligible children from birth to age three and their families. After referral, a Family Service Coordinator (FSC) is assigned to assist a family in navigating the early intervention process.

Child Development Watch
18 N. Walnut St., 2nd Floor
Milford, DE 19963
302-424-7300 / 302-424-1363 (fax)

Child Development Watch
258 Chapman Road, Suite 103
Newark, DE 19702
302-283-7240 / 302-283-7141

Birth to Three Early Intervention System
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Management Services
1901 North duPont Highway
New Castle, DE 19720

Referring to Child Development Watch (CDW)

A child can be referred to Child Development Watch if s/he is under three (3) years of age and may need early intervention services because s/he is experiencing a developmental delay in one or more of the following areas:

- Cognitive development;
- Physical development, including vision and hearing;
- Communication development;
- Social-emotional development;
- Adaptive/Self-help development; or
- Is diagnosed with a physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay

Definition of Developmental Delay for Eligibility

In Delaware, a developmental delay that establishes eligibility for Part C, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, is when a child exhibits one or more of the following criteria:

- A delay of 25% or greater when compared to age expected level of development in one or more of the following developmental domains: cognition, physical/motor, social-emotional, adaptive;
- A delay of 25% or greater in receptive language, without a delay in one of the other developmental domains;
- Any delay in communication in conjunction with a delay of 25% or greater in one or more of the following developmental domains: cognitive, physical/motor, social-emotional, adaptive;
- At least 1.75 deviation below the mean in any developmental domain when measured by a normed, standardized instrument;

Established Conditions

An established condition is one with a high probability of developmental delay including, but not limited to, the following examples:

- Chromosomal Disorders
- Genetic Disorders
- Severe Infectious Diseases
- Neurological Disorders
- Congenital Anomalies
- Sensory Disorders
- Severe Adjustment, Socio-Affective and Other Atypical Disorder

Established conditions (continued):

- Effects of Toxic Exposure
- Medically Fragile
- Chronic Medical Illness
- Low Birth Weight/Small for Gestational Age
- Severe Protein-Calorie Malnutrition

Children who qualify for a birth mandate educational classification according to Delaware Department of Education, specifically under the Administrative Code for Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Hearing Impairment, and Visual Impairment Including Blindness, will qualify as an established condition under Delaware Part C.

A complete list, and more information on eligibility, can be found by going to the following website: http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dms/epqc/birth3/files/de_partc_eligibilityrev.pdf

Child Development Watch Process

Step 1: Referral

To refer a child to CDW, please download the *Community Resource and Referral Form*: <http://www.pedstest.com/ForDelawareUsers.aspx>

Other ways to refer:

New Castle County Central Intake (302) 283-7140 **Fax:** (302) 283-7141

All other CDW inquiries in NCC call (302) 283-7240
(800) 671-0050

Kent and Sussex Counties (302) 424-7300 **Fax:** (302) 422-1363
(800) 752-9393

The initial evaluation, the initial assessments of the child and family, and the initial IFSP meeting shall be completed within forty-five (45) days from the date CDW receives the referral of the child.

Step 2: A Family Service Coordinator (FSC) will be assigned within 2 working days of referral.

Step 3: A home visit/intake will be done to obtain parental consent to evaluate the child within two weeks of assignment to FSC. Parents have the right to refuse both the evaluation and services.

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Step 4: A Multidisciplinary Assessment (MDA), including assessment of family concerns and strengths, is completed. The assessment of the child includes the following:

- A review of the results of the evaluation conducted to determine eligibility;
- Personal observations of the child; and
- The identification of the child's needs in each of the developmental areas:
 - Cognitive development;
 - Physical development, including health, hearing and vision;
 - Communication development;
 - Social or emotional development; and
 - Adaptive development.

The Multidisciplinary Assessment team determines if the child is eligible for Early Intervention services.

- If *yes* (the child is eligible), a meeting is scheduled to develop an IFSP.
- If *no* (the child is found not eligible), parents are informed of that determination and a closure letter will be sent to the Primary Care Physician.

Step 5: An initial Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting is held and the initial IFSP plan is written detailing the child's current level of functioning, family priorities and concerns, outcomes to be achieved, early intervention services identified, and other early intervention information.

Step 6: Early intervention services begin as soon as possible after the parents give consent for services, and in the child and family's natural environment. The Family Service Coordinator is a family's single point of contact, case managing and coordinating early intervention services for the child and family.

Step 7: The IFSP is reviewed at least every 6 months. The child's growth, developmental status and family priority and concern will be reviewed and information revised as necessary.

Step 8: A transition conference must be convened at least 90 days and not more than 9 months before the child's third birthday.

- Children with birthdays from May 1st through August 31st may remain in CDW (Part C) until the first day of school in the fall.
- Children with birthdays between September 1st and December 31st may transition to the School District (Part B) early, at the beginning of the school year.