

N.J. Early Intervention Services

1

THE EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

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NOTE: All cites in powerpoint are for Early Intervention; for Special Education cites, see other powerpoints

Target Population

2

Early Intervention

Infants/toddlers ages
birth to 3d birthday
and their families

Special Education

Students with disabilities
ages 3 through 21

Responsible Agency/ies

3

Early Intervention

N.J. Department of
Health and Senior
Services
• 4 Regional Early
Intervention
Collaboratives (REICs)

Special Education

N.J. Department of
Education
• 600+ local school
districts

Early Intervention - Child Find

4

Duty to locate, identify and evaluate potentially
eligible children

- Must coordinate child find efforts with primary
referral sources

N.J.A.C. 8:17-2.1

Early Intervention - Referral

5

Who may refer a child to the EIS?

- Anyone
- Primary referral sources – doctors, DYFS,
parent or foster parent
- Consent of parent **is not** necessary for referral
(i.e. making the call)
- Written consent of parent, or person acting in
place of parent, **is** necessary to conduct multi-
disciplinary evaluation

N.J.A.C. 8:17-2.2, 4.2

Early Intervention - Mandatory Referral

6

**State must refer ALL children
under age 3 if:**

- involved in substantiated case of child
abuse or neglect to early intervention
services **or**
- identified as affected by illegal substance
abuse or withdrawal symptoms due to
prenatal drug exposure

N.J.A.C. 8:17-2.2

Early Intervention – Referral Defined

7

Each child referred to the N.J. EIS is entitled to have an evaluation and assessment conducted within 45 days of the date of referral

- provided that consent of “parent” is obtained

Children may be screened **IN** to the program but may **NOT** be screened **OUT**

34 C.F.R. 303.322

Relevant Timeframes

8

Early Intervention

Evaluation, eligibility and IFSP developed *within 45 days of date of referral*

Special Education

Evaluation, eligibility and IEP developed *within 90 days of date written consent of parent obtained*

N.J.A.C. 8:17-6.3

Early Intervention - Evaluation

9

- Free, multi-disciplinary evaluation
 - Within 45 days of referral
 - In native language or other preferred mode of communication
- Evaluation includes:
 - Medical history
 - Physical development
 - Cognitive skills
 - Communication skills
 - Social / emotional development
 - Adaptive skills

N.J.A.C. 8:17-6.1, 6.2, 6.3

Early Intervention - Eligibility

10

Child under 3 years old and has:

- 33% delay in one developmental area (or two standard deviations below the mean), or
- 25% delay in two or more developmental areas (or 1.5 standard deviations below the mean), or
- Diagnosed by physician or psychologist as having physical or mental condition with high probability of resulting in developmental delay (presumptive eligibility)

Developmental areas include:

- Physical
- Cognitive
- Adaptive
- Communication
- Social/emotional

N.J.A.C. 8:17-7.1

Point of Contact

11

Early Intervention

Service Coordinator

- Coordinate / monitor evaluations and service provision
- Facilitate creation, review and evaluation of IFSPs
- Identify available service providers
- Inform family of rights

Special Education

Case Manager

- Coordinate/monitor evaluations and service provision
- Facilitate creation, review and evaluation of IEPs
- Inform family of rights

N.J.A.C. 8:17-3.1

Service Plan

12

Early Intervention

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

- Written contract for service provision
- Tailored to meet *child and family's* unique needs
- Needs driven
- Meaningful developmental benefit standard

Special Education

Individualized Education Plan(IEP)

- Written contract for service provision
- Tailored to meet *child's* unique needs
- Needs driven
- Meaningful educational benefit standard

N.J.A.C. 8:17-8.1 et seq.

Early Intervention – IFSP Components

13

- Child's **current functioning**
- Family's **concerns**
- **Needs and resources** of child and family
- **All services** child/family need (**initiation, method, frequency and duration**)
- Identify **natural environment**
 - "Natural Environment" is home or other setting in which children without disabilities participate
- **Expected outcomes**
- **6-month reviews** and **annual re-evaluation**
- **Transition plan**

N.J.A.C. 8:17-8.5

Early Intervention - Services

14

- Assessment
- Assistive Technology
- Audiology Services
- Family Counseling / Training
- Health Services
- Medical Services
- Nursing Services
- Nutrition Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychological Services
- Service Coordination
- Social Work Services
- Special Instruction
- Speech/Language Pathology
- Transportation Svc.
- Vision Services

N.J.A.C. 8:17-8.5(g)

Location of Services



<p>Early Intervention Natural environment (where children without disabilities participate) to maximum extent appropriate</p>	<p>Special Education Least restrictive environment to maximum extent appropriate</p>
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Continuum of educational settings

N.J.A.C. 8:17-8.6

Early Intervention - Transition

16

- With family approval, transition conference convened no fewer than 90 days and no greater than 9 months before child's third birthday
- If child not eligible for preschool or other services, create transition plan for exit from program
- Conference attendees include family, lead agency (DHSS) and local school district

NOTE: Transition meeting must occur even if local school district refuses to attend

N.J.A.C. 8:17-11.1

Early Intervention - Payment

17

- Evaluations, assessments, service coordination, IFSP development & review – Free
- If below 300% F.P.L. - Free
- Medicaid
- Sliding fee scale based on family income, size and number of service hours
- EI system as Payor of Last Resort

N.J.A.C. 8:17-9.1 et seq.

Early Intervention – RED FLAGS

18

- Failure to identify eligible children
- Failure to implement CAPTA and IDEA mandatory referrals
- Failure to obtain appropriate consent
- "Screening" and refusal to evaluate
- Waiting lists
 - Evaluations
 - Services
- IFSP based on service/program availability, NOT child's needs
- Qualifications of service providers
- Natural environment ≠ home automatically

Early Intervention - NY Checklist

- What are the medical needs of this child?
- What are the developmental needs of this child?
- What are the attachment and emotional health needs of this child?
- What challenges does the caregiver face that may impact his or her capacity to parent this child?
- What resources are available to enhance this child's healthy development [and education]?

Courtesy of Zero to Three & NY State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children

Early Intervention – Add'l Questions

- Must this child be referred for EI due to:
 - substantiated case of abuse or neglect OR
 - affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms (prenatal drug exp.)
- If referral not mandated, should the child be referred to EI due to suspected disability or delay?
- Has the child ever been referred to EI?
- Has the child ever been evaluated for EI?
- Has the child ever been enrolled in the EIS?
- Does the child have an IFSP? Is it appropriate? Is it being implemented?

Early Intervention – Relevant Laws

- Federal Law
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) Part C, 20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.
 - 34 C.F.R. Part 303
- State Law
 - N.J.A.C. 8:17-1.1 et seq.
 - N.J.A.C. 6A, Chapter 14, subchapter 10
 - N.J.S.A Title 9, Chapter 6b

Early Intervention Resources –N.J.

Statewide Toll-Free Referral Number	888-653-4463
NJ EIS www.njeis.org	609-777-7734
NJ EIS Procedural Safeguards Coordinator	877-258-6585
NJ State Interagency Coordinating Council for EI	877-909-7422
NJ Developmental Disabilities Council www.njddc.org	800- 792-8858

Early Intervention Resources –N.J.

Southern N.J. REIC (serving Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties)
www.snjreic.org 856-768-6747

Mid-Jersey CARES for Special Children REIC (serving Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Somerset Counties)
www.cnjmche.org 732-937-5437

Family Link REIC (serving Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties)
www.familylinknj.org 908-964-5303

Northeast REIC (serving Bergen, Hudson and Passaic Counties)
www.nreic.org 973-256-8484