



## EARLY INTERVENTION FACT SHEET

- Participation in Early Intervention is voluntary.
- Once the family has agreed to the referral, SCHS will conduct a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine eligibility, and if eligible to hold an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) Meeting within forty-five (45) days. Services begin shortly thereafter.
- A child is eligible if the evaluation demonstrates a 25% delay in two or more areas or a 33% delay in one area of development. (gross or fine motor, speech/language, psychosocial, adaptive/self help) A child may also be eligible due to diagnosis (see below)
- There are some diagnoses that if documented by a physician can provide the child with immediate eligibility. These are: Down Syndrome, Hearing or Visual Impairment, Hydrocephalus, Spina Bifida, Fragile X, Autism/PDD, Cerebral Palsy. Documentation of these diagnoses can expedite services if there is an immediate need.
- An eligible child may receive up to two (2) hours of developmental services per week, at public expense, without regard to ability to pay. If a family meets financial eligibility requirements, additional services may be provided at public expense.
- The mission of early intervention is to provide quality, early support and services to enhance the capacity of families to meet developmental and health-related needs of children from birth to three who have delays or disabilities. Services are provided in a family-centered and relationship-based manner. To facilitate this mission, a primary interventionist model of service delivery is encouraged. Early Intervention Providers are child development specialists who are qualified professionals from fields such as: Physical, Occupational or Speech Therapy, Special Education, Psychology, Nursing or Social Work. They will address all areas of a child's development with consultation or direct services from other disciplines as needed.
- All services are conducted in the child's natural environment, where the child would naturally be if he or she did not have a special need. Integration with typical peers is seen as optimal. An example of natural environment would include the child's home or daycare setting
- SCHS also assists the family with the transition to Pre-school, including meeting with the family and the Child Study Team and advising the family of options which are available.

This fact sheet is not meant to explain every detail of the Part C entitlement, but rather to give a brief synopsis.  
For complete regulations please refer to Part C of Federal IDEA.