

About EI / ECSE Services



The Oregon Department of Education is the lead agency for the statewide system of early intervention and early childhood special education services for families with children ages birth to five who have developmental delays.

What is early intervention?

Children who receive early intervention services from birth to three years of age have a need for services because of a delay in any one of a number of developmental areas, including cognitive, physical, communication development, self-help and psycho-social development. In addition, for very young children, eligibility for services can be determined on the basis of a medical diagnosis of a condition likely to result in a developmental delay.

What is early childhood special education?

Children who receive early childhood special education range in age from 3 years to entry into public kindergarten. They need these services because they experience a developmental delay or have been evaluated as having one of the school-age disabilities, such as vision impairment, mental retardation or autism. Children in early childhood special education programs have disabilities that range from mild to severe.



What is EI / ECSE?

Early intervention (EI) and early childhood special education (ECSE) are specialized services offered throughout the state of Oregon to eligible children with special needs, ages birth to kindergarten. These programs are administered through 10 regional contractors around the state.

What services are provided for children and their families?

Programs are specially designed to address the special education needs of young children with disabilities. These services may include a combination of the following:

- Evaluation
- Developmental consultation/education
- Parent consultation/education
- Physical therapy
- Speech therapy
- Vision services
- Hearing services
- Augmentative communication
- Assistive technology





These services may be provided in any of the following settings:

- Home
- Preschools and classrooms
- Hospitals
- Parent groups
- Toddler groups
- Child care setting
- Skill groups

Who should be referred for evaluation?

Any infant, toddler, or preschooler who has or is suspected of having problems related:

- Developmental delays
- Vision
- Hearing
- Speech and language
- Motor
- Socialization (relating to others)
- Behavior
- Learning

Who can refer for services?

- Families
- Child care programs
- Preschools
- Friends
- Physicians
- Any community agency



Once a family has been referred for services, the child may receive developmental screening and/or be recommended for a developmental evaluation. Trained staff complete observations, conduct diagnostic evaluations and gather information from parents. All initial evaluations are made with the knowledge and signed consent of the child's parent. Parent concerns are considered in the evaluation process and in making a decision regarding eligibility.

What is an IFSP?

An IFSP is an individualized family service plan. A team of professionals together with the child's parents develops the IFSP. All eligible children with disabilities, from birth to kindergarten age, have an IFSP. The IFSP is a written plan that describes:

- Child's abilities and needs
- Services to be provided
- Related services
- Other services
- Family outcomes related to the child's needs
- Goals and objectives reflecting both the child's developmental and special education needs.