



# Natural Partners in Natural Environments: Childcare & Early Intervention



## A Guide to Early Intervention Services in Illinois



# Welcome!

**This booklet will describe how the early intervention system works in Illinois and how you can help support young children and their families.**



There are many benefits to providing Early Intervention services to children in their child care setting.



Almost half of all children under the age of 5 with working mothers were in child care for at least 35 hours a week<sup>1</sup>;



Early Intervention providers can observe children interacting with peers in developmentally-appropriate activities; and



Early Intervention providers and child care providers can share expertise to implement strategies systematically throughout the day.

As a child care provider, in addition to a child's parents, you are one of a child's earliest and most important teachers. Early Intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in those first few years and is supported in each child's natural environment.

## **Children learn best through every day experiences with familiar people in familiar settings.**

Accordingly, federal regulations require Early Intervention Services to be provided in the natural environment, which is defined as settings that are natural or normal for the child's age peers who have no disability. This can be a family's home, child care setting or community setting.

Illinois' Early Intervention program's mission is to assure that families who have infants and toddlers, birth to three, with diagnosed disabilities, developmental delays or substantial risk of significant delays receive resources and supports that assist them in maximizing their child's development while respecting the diversity of families and communities.

<sup>1</sup> According to the National Survey of America's Family (2005) <http://newfederalism.urban.org/nsaf/> **2**

# Growth & Development of Young Children

**As a childcare provider, you have watched and nurtured the development of young children. You have seen that they develop in many ways.**

## Milestones

**They develop positive social-emotional relationships.**

**They acquire and use knowledge and skills.**

**They gain independence and take actions to meet their own needs.**

## This can be seen as they...

- Form secure attachments
- Cope with separations from parents/ caregivers
- Express emotions and needs
- Develop play skills
- Relate with adults and children
- Learn expectations, routines, and rules

- Explore the physical and social world around them
- Try new things and problem solve
- Use symbols and language
- Think, reason, and remember
- Learn concepts such as science, literacy, and math

- Develop regulation of emotional and physical needs
- Locomotion and movement
- Coordination to use tools such as eating or writing utensils
- Dress themselves
- Learn to use the toilet independently

**Each child develops at his or her own pace; however, there is a typical sequence of development that is expected.** If, through a formal developmental screening or through observation of a child's development, you have concerns about an infant or toddler's development or behavior, you should talk with the family about your concerns.

**As a childcare provider, you are considered a primary referral source.** As such, you are required to make a referral to the EI system when a delay is identified. Families should be informed of referrals and given information about how they can contact their Child and Family Connections office.

# How Do I Talk with Parents about Their Child's Development?

Talking with parents about a child's growth and development is a common occurrence between a childcare provider and the families they serve. You frequently meet with or talk with the parents to share information about their child's progress and participation in your program.

If you have a concern about a child's development or behavior, you will need to find a time and place to have a more in-depth conversation.

## Some ways to talk about a child's development or behavior:

### 1. Define your concern.

- Collect data (i.e., information about the specific issue), check developmental issues and cultural considerations, and ask your director or co-worker for a second opinion.
- Be able to clearly define the situation (i.e., the child is doing *this* during *this* time with *these* people; the child is using these words consistently, the child struggles doing this).

### 2. Schedule a meeting.

- The meeting should be with the appropriate caregivers (parents, other caregivers, etc.) outside of the regular caregiving day in a private space such as an office or at the family's home.
- Consider a time when both parents can attend. Arrange for an interpreter, if necessary.

### 3. Prepare what you want to talk about.

- Have data available, defined concerns, possible solutions, and resources such as referral information to Child and Family Connections.

### 4. Give a "big picture" with strengths.

- Start by giving a big picture of the child, highlighting positives, and then discuss how the concern is a part of the overall picture.
- Provide a developmental "snapshot" of the child, describing their strengths and challenges.
- For example, discuss that continued delays in communication may impact the child's ability to play and have fun with other children (i.e., Sarah needs support in her language development so that she will be able to play and talk with the other children independently).

### 5. Ask parents for their perspective on the issue as well.

- There is a chance they have the same concerns and it will be important to hear their perspective as well.

### 6. Put yourself in their shoes.

- Recognize that this may be difficult for the family and be prepared for a range of reactions and emotional responses.
- Be respectful of the family's feelings.

### 7. Develop solutions and options with family as a TEAM.

- Working collaboratively allows for multiple perspectives, more involvement and better problem solving.

### 8. Keep up the good work!

- Continue to assess strengths and concerns, collect data, and work in partnership with family on solutions.

## Ways to talk with all families

Speaking with them at drop off or pick up times

Emailing, texting, or making regular phone calls

Writing a daily or weekly note on what the child has done

Center newsletters

Photos of the child in action

# What is Early Intervention (EI)?

**Early intervention services are family-centered and based on strengths, concerns, and priorities identified by the family.**

EI aims to strengthen the family's ability to support their child's development. Since services are family-centered, families have a choice about whether or not to participate. If they decide to participate, providers will be respectful of the family's interests, values, and preferences for where services will occur.

EI is a voluntary system that provides many services to families in order to help them support the growth and development of their children.

## **Early interventionists can:**

- Answer families' questions about their children's development;
- Provide you with supports and adaptations for your program;
- Improve both developmental and educational growth;
- Help children become more independent;
- Prevent the need for more intervention in the future; and
- Help communities become more aware of the gifts and abilities of all their children.

# Who is Eligible for Early Intervention Services in Illinois?

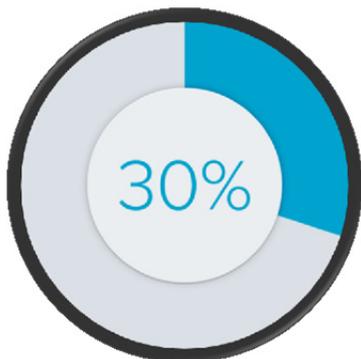
In order to be eligible, children must...



**Live in Illinois**



**Be under the age of 36 months (3years)**



**Have at least 30% delay**

Children must have at least a 30% delay in a developmental domain (cognitive, physical, communication, social or emotional, or adaptive), have a medical diagnosis, or be considered at-risk for significant developmental delay.

Observation, parent information, and assessment tools are used to determine a child's abilities across the different domains of development.

# How Do You Access Early Intervention Services?



As a childcare provider, you are familiar with the **expected path** for young children's development and a valued member of a family's team.

Your familiarity of the early intervention system can be a great support for families who are experiencing concerns with their children's development.

Below is a brief review of some critical pieces of the EI system, so you can provide information to families and help answer their questions as they consider participating in the EI system. Remember, EI is a voluntary program.

Anyone can refer a child for early intervention services if they have a concern about the child's development.

As a childcare provider, you are considered a primary referral source. As such, you are expected to make a referral to the EI system when a delay is identified. Families should be informed of referrals and given information about how they can contact their Child and Family Connections (CFC) office (see pages 11-15 for CFC contact information).

After a referral is made, a service coordinator will take the next steps.

The service coordinator will determine appropriateness (e.g., child is under 36 months and lives in Illinois) and contact the family within two business days to schedule an intake visit.

A service coordinator will meet with the family.

During this visit, a service coordinator will share information about the EI program, collect information about the child and family, and begin identifying strengths and needs. The family and service coordinator will discuss what type of evaluation or assessment is best.

# Developing a Plan for Early Intervention Services

1

## Once eligibility is determined, an Individualized Family Service Plan, or IFSP, is developed.

The IFSP will identify meaningful, functional outcomes for the family and child and the services that will help the family achieve those outcomes.

2

## Services are then incorporated into the family's natural environments.

This may be their home, community, child care, or other setting identified by the family. Outcomes are based on the family's strengths, needs, routines, culture and interests.

3

## Remember, participation in EI is completely voluntary.

A family may choose to withdraw from the system at any time.

4

## The frequency of EI services is determined by the IFSP team.

This team includes the family, service coordinator, early interventionists, and anyone else identified by the family. Therefore, the family may invite you to participate in various early intervention visits or meetings.

## You can help develop and support the IFSP by...

- **Identifying the child's unique qualities and strengths.** Share the child's interests and preferences (toys, friends, games, songs) and areas of strength with the team.
- **Reviewing the activities that occur in a typical day.** Identify the activities which the child shows difficulties participating in and enjoys (painting, building, outside, snack).
- **Identifying the special needs the child has within your specific child care setting.** Think about what the child might need to reach his or her potential in your care such as adaptive equipment, stronger feeding skills, support when interacting with peers.
- **Being open to working in partnership with the family and early intervention staff** in developing the IFSP and in determining the types of services that might be offered at your program.

# What is My Role in Early Intervention?

**If you have been invited  
to participate in the family's EI plan**

**What does EI look like in child care?**

# Let's Review

**You can support a family in EI in many ways.**

**1**

**You can help the family identify a developmental concern such as a delay in language development.**

Although it is very important to share concerns you have with the family in a timely manner, make sure to be sensitive when approaching a parent. Be willing to support and respect their responses and avoid diagnosing the child with a specific disability.

**2**

**You can raise families' awareness of the availability of EI services by providing them with resources.**

These materials may include the phone number for their local CFC office and information on the EI program in your area. If you identify a concern, you are required to make a referral to your local CFC office as well.

**3**

**With the family's permission, you can provide information during the assessment and intervention phases.**

If a child comes into your child care program with an identified special need, ask to work with the family on their early intervention outcomes. You may ask for permission to see the child's IFSP and use it to guide your activities.

**4**

**You can welcome and partner with early intervention providers in your center or home-based child care setting.**

Being available for meetings, having frequent communication, respecting each person and supporting the efforts of all involved will help build relationships and encourage positive interactions.

**"If everyone is on board - the kids, family, EI and child care, then it is completely life changing."**

*Melissa, Child Care Provider*

# Child and Family Connections (CFC) Listing



CFC Listing is available from Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Early Intervention. This version revised July 2015.

CFC	CFC Site Address, Phone, Fax & Toll Free Numbers	CFC Manager	Serving County(s) and/or Zip Codes	
1	Child & Family Connections Access Services of Northern Illinois 1752 Windsor Rd., Ste. 102/ PO Box 16390 Loves Park, IL 61132-6390 <b>815/654-6170</b> Fax: 815/654-6197 Toll Free #: 800/921-0094	<b>Dee Dee Lowery</b>	Boone Bureau Marshall	Ogle Putnam Winnebago
2	Child & Family Connections Lake County Health Department 3010 Grand Ave., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Waukegan, IL 60085 <b>847/377-8900</b> Fax: 847/377-8939 Toll Free #: 888/539-3033	<b>Donna Nace</b>	Lake	
3	Child & Family Connections Regional Office of Education for Carroll, Jo Daviess, & Stephenson Co. 27 S. State Avenue, Suite 101 Freeport, IL 61032-4210 <b>815/297-1041</b> Fax: 815/297-9032 Toll Free #: 888/297-1041	<b>Angela Hodges</b>	Carroll DeKalb Jo Daviess	Lee Stephenson Whiteside
4	Child & Family Connections DayOne Network 1551 E. Fabyan Pkwy. Geneva, IL 60134 <b>630/879-2277</b> Fax: 630/761-9810 Toll Free #: 888/282-0997	<b>Ellana Mavromatis</b>	Kane Kendall	
5	Child & Family Connections PACT, Inc. 750 Warrenville Rd., Suite 300 Lisle, IL 60532 <b>630/493-0400</b> Fax: 630/493-1995 Toll Free #: 800/637-7181	<b>Lori Orr</b>	DuPage County including the following Cook County zip codes:	
			60103	60126

CFC	CFC Site Address, Phone, Fax & Toll Free Numbers	CFC Manager	Serving County(s) and/or Zip Codes
6	Child & Family Connections Clearbrook Center 1835 W. Central Rd. Arlington Heights, IL 60005 <b>847/385-5070</b> Fax: 847/385-7260 Toll Free #: 800/585-1953	<b>Brenda DeVito</b>	<b>*Cook County North Suburban including the following zip codes:</b> 60004 60035 60090 60173 60005 60043 60091 60192 60006 60053 60093 60193 60007 60056 60095 60194 60008 60062 60106 60195 60010 60067 60107 60196 60015 60068 60120 60201 60016 60070 60133 60202 60018 60074 60143 60203 60022 60076 60149 60204 60025 60077 60157 60666 60026 60082 60169 60712 60029 60089 60172 60714
7	Child & Family Connections Suburban Access, Inc. One Westbrook Corporate Center, Suite 640 Westchester, IL 60154 <b>708/449-0625</b> Fax: 708/449-7071 Toll Free #: 888/566-8228	<b>Jo Ann Alferink</b>	<b>*Cook County Central Suburban including the following zip codes:</b> 60104 60162 60303 60527 60130 60163 60304 60534 60131 60164 60305 60546 60141 60165 60402 60558 60153 60171 60513 60706 60154 60176 60521 60707 60155 60301 60525 60804 60160 60302 60526
8	Child & Family Connections Easter Seals Society of Metropolitan Chicago 9455 S. Hoyne Ave. Chicago, IL 60643 <b>773/233-1799</b> Fax: 773/233-2011/ <b>239-6229</b> Toll Free #: 866/266-7167	<b>Marlene Stroube</b>	<b>*Cook County Chicago Southwest including the following zip codes:</b> 60620 60633 60652 60827 60628 60638 60655 60629 60643 60805  *This CFC serve those families who reside within the City of Chicago when the zip codes cross the city lines.
9	Child & Family Connections 5422 W. Roosevelt Rd. Chicago, IL 60644 <b>773/830-5200</b> Fax: 773/830-5201 Toll Free #: 844/621-2911	<b>Grace Ortiz</b>	<b>*Cook County Chicago Central/ West including the following zip codes:</b> 60601 60605 60612 60632 60602 60606 60616 60644 60603 60607 60623 60661 60604 60608 60624
10	Child & Family Connections La Rabida Children's Hospital 1525 E. 55 <sup>th</sup> St., Suite 203 Chicago, IL 60615 <b>773/324-7434</b> Fax: 773/324-7469 Toll Free #: 800/862-1912	<b>Carol Muhammad</b>	<b>*Cook County Chicago Southeast including the following zip codes:</b> 60609 60619 60636 60649 60615 60621 60637 60653 60617
11	Child & Family Connections 945 W. George St., Suite 300 Chicago, IL 60657 <b>312/942-7800</b> Fax: 312/942-7811 Toll Free #: 800/289-7990	<b>Melissa Lane</b>	<b>*Cook County Chicago North including the following zip codes:</b> 60610 60625 66040 60651 60611 60626 60641 60654 60613 60630 60642 60656 60614 60631 60645 60657 60618 60634 60646 60659 60622 60639 60647 60660

CFC	CFC Site Address, Phone, Fax & Toll Free Numbers	CFC Manager	Serving County(s) and/or Zip Codes			
12	Child & Family Connections Easter Seals Society of Metropolitan Chicago 17300 S. Ozark Ave. - North Bldg. Tinley Park, IL 60477 <b>708/429-8231</b> Fax: 708/429-8246 Toll Free #: 800/597-7798	<b>Peter Byrne</b>	<b>*Cook County South Suburban            including the following zip codes:</b>			
			60406	60430	60458	60473
			60409	60439	60459	60475
			60411	60438	60461	60476
			60415	60443	60462	60477
			60417	60445	60463	60478
			60419	60448	60464	60480
			60422	60449	60465	60482
			60423	60452	60466	60487
			60425	60453	60467	60491
			60426	60455	60469	60501
			60428	60456	60471	60803
			60429	60457	60472	
13	Child & Family Connections Reg. Office of Education # 26 130 South Lafayette Street, Suite 200 Macomb, IL 61455 <b>309/575-3226</b> Fax: 309/734-1145 Toll Free #: 866/426-2160	<b>Chuck Farr</b>	Fulton Hancock Henderson Knox McDonough	Mercer Rock Island Schuyler Warren		
14	Child & Family Connections 3000 W. Rohmann Ave. West Peoria, IL 61604 <b>309/672-6360</b> Fax: 309/681-0190 Toll Free #: 888/482-4300	<b>Gary Reed</b>	Henry Peoria Stark	Tazewell Woodford		
15	Child & Family Connections Services of Will, Grundy, & Kankakee Counties, Inc. 2300 Glenwood Ave. Joliet, IL 60435 <b>815/730-2617</b> Fax: 815/730-2650 Toll Free #: 888/329-0633	<b>Rachel Cimino</b>	Grundy Kankakee	LaSalle Will		
16	Child & Family Connections 103 S. Country Fair Dr. Champaign, IL 61821 <b>217/693-7958</b> Fax: 217/693-7967 Toll Free #: 800/877-1152	<b>Maggie Jones</b>	Champaign Ford Iroquois	Livingston McLean Vermilion		
17	Child & Family Connections ROE of Adams/Pike Counties 510 Maine St., Suite 615 Quincy, IL 62301 <b>217/222-9592</b> Fax: 217/222-9593 Toll Free #: 888/222-9592	<b>Michelle Schwanke</b>  <b>Ashley Edwards</b> 217/245-8755	Adams Brown Calhoun Cass Greene	Jersey Morgan Pike Scott		

CFC	CFC Site Address, Phone, Fax & Toll Free Numbers	CFC Manager	Serving County(s) and/or Zip Codes	
18	Child & Family Connections Sangamon Co. Public Health Department 2833 South Grand Ave., East Springfield, IL 62703 <b>217/535-3100</b> Fax: 217/793-3991 Toll Free #: 888/217-3505	<b>Lisa McGlothlin</b>	Logan Mason	Menard Sangamon
19	Child & Family Connections Macon County Community Mental Health Board 132 S. Water St., Suite 604 Decatur, IL 62523 <b>217/423-6199</b> Fax: 217/233-7028 Toll Free #: 800/758-2705	<b>Debbie Floyd</b>	Clark Coles Cumberland DeWitt Douglas	Edgar Macon Moultrie Piatt Shelby
20	Child & Family Connections ARC Community Support Systems 1901 S. 4th St., Suite 209 Effingham, IL. 62401 <b>217/318-3512</b> Fax: 217/705-4301 Toll Free #: 888/459-5437	<b>Rita Wahl</b>	Bond Christian Clay Crawford Effingham Fayette	Jasper Lawrence Macoupin Montgomery Richland
21	Child & Family Connections Regional Office of Education #13 4 Eagle Center, Suite 4 O'Fallon, IL 62269 <b>618/622-6581</b> Fax: 618/622-8662 Toll Free #: 888/594-8364	<b>Nicole Van Hise</b>	Madison Monroe	Randolph St. Clair
22	Child & Family Connections Regional Office of Education #13 101 S. Lincoln Blvd. Centralia, IL 62801 <b>618/532-4919</b> Fax: 618/532-0856 Toll Free #: 800/661-0900	<b>Bill Ferguson</b>	Clinton Franklin Jefferson	Marion Washington Williamson
23	Child & Family Connections Wabash & Ohio Valley Special Education Dist. 800 S. Division St./PO Box 320 Norris City, IL 62869 <b>618/378-2131</b> Fax: 618/378-3127 Toll Free #: 800/463-2759	<b>Karen Williams</b>	Edwards Gallatin Hamilton Saline	Wabash Wayne White

CFC	CFC Site Address, Phone, Fax & Toll Free Numbers	CFC Manager	Serving County(s) and/or Zip Codes	
24	Child & Family Connections Archway, Inc. 2751 W. Main St./ PO Box 1180 Carbondale, IL 62901-1180 <b>618/529-3147</b> Fax: 618/549-8137 Toll Free #: 888/340-6702	<b>Deanna Cruse</b>	Alexander Hardin Jackson Johnson Massac	Perry Pope Pulaski Union
25	Child & Family Connections Options & Advocacy for McHenry Co. 365 Millennium Dr., Suite A Crystal Lake, IL 60012 <b>815/477-4720</b> Fax/TDD: 815/788-0704 Toll Free #: 888/376-8828	<b>Karen Rios</b>	McHenry	

Special Notes:

- \* When a zip code crosses county lines, Cook Child and Family Connections will serve the portion that falls within Cook County.
- \*\* Toll free numbers are only accessible within Illinois. All other states must use the local number listed.
- \*\*\* CFCs that are Satellite Offices- CFC 27 reports to CFC 17, CFC 28 reports to CFC 14 & CFC 29 reports to CFC 1

If you have any questions or have changes regarding this listing, please contact the DHS, Bureau of Early Intervention at 217/782-1981.

If you would like more information on Early Intervention, please visit our website at www.dhs.state.il.us/ei and look review the brochures and manuals sections.

# Resource List

## **Center on the Social and Emotional Foundation for Early Learning**

**[csefel.vanderbilt.edu](http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu)**

CSEFEL provides information on social and emotional development including challenging behaviors and infant/toddler issues, including how to collect data.

## **The Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, Early Intervention Services**

**[ectacenter.org/topics/eiservices/eiservices.asp](http://ectacenter.org/topics/eiservices/eiservices.asp)**

ECTA's site focused on EI provides information on EI philosophy, principles, and information.

## **Early Intervention Training Program at the University of Illinois**

**[eitp.education.illinois.edu](http://eitp.education.illinois.edu)**

EITP is integral to the Illinois' professional development system for early intervention providers. Their site includes a calendar of training opportunities and resource list for early intervention related topics.

## **Illinois Early Learning Project**

**[illinoisearlylearning.org](http://illinoisearlylearning.org)**

IELP provides information about learning and development guidelines in Illinois as well as resources for staff and parents on a variety of early childhood topics, such as free tip sheets.

## **Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**

**[www.inccrra.org](http://www.inccrra.org)**

INCCRRA serves as a resource for making high quality, affordable early care and education, as well as school-age care options available for children and families in Illinois.

## **ExceleRate Illinois**

**[accelerateillinois.com](http://accelerateillinois.com)**

ExceleRate distributes standards, guidelines, resources, and supports for child care programs in Illinois.

## **Gateways to Opportunity**

**[www.ilgateways.com/en/](http://www.ilgateways.com/en/)**

"Gateways" provides information about Illinois' professional development system for child care providers. This site includes a calendar of training opportunities, credentialing information and resources.

## **Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse**

**[www.eiclearinghouse.org](http://www.eiclearinghouse.org)**

The EI Clearinghouse identifies and collects research-based and best-practice early intervention information to share with families. Materials are delivered to your home or program and usually can be returned to your local library.