



## Texas Early Childhood Intervention



### Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

#### Division of Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECI)

ECI is a coordinated system of services and supports for Texas families who have children, birth to 36 months, with delays in development, atypical development or disabilities.



Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services  
Division for Early Childhood Intervention Services  
4900 N. Lamar, Austin, Texas 78751



### About ECI

- ECI services are available in every Texas county.
- Services provided by 58 ECI programs that contract with the State.
- 52,848 children received comprehensive services in 2008.
- ECI has served Texas children & families since 1981.



### Who can receive ECI services?

- Any child birth to 36 months in Texas may be eligible.
- Families of all income levels may receive services.



### ECI Programs Determine Eligibility Based On

#### Developmental Delay

Cognitive, Motor, Communication, Social-Emotional, or Adaptive

#### Atypical Development

Behavior patterns and/or sensory-motor responses that are qualitatively different; as well as vision and auditory impairments

#### Medically Diagnosed Condition

With a high probability of resulting in developmental delay (list of medical diagnoses can be found on ECI website,  
[www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis))



### ECI services are provided in accordance with Federal Regulations IDEA, Part C

...Services designed to meet the developmental needs of enrolled children by ensuring that families have the resources necessary to enhance their children's development (IDEA, Section 303.12)



**Array of ECI Services  
Based on Needs of the Child and Family**

- Assistive Technology
- Audiology
- Assessment
- Developmental Services
- Family Counseling
- Health Services
- Medical Services
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychological Services
- Service Coordination
- Screening
- Social Work Services
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Vision Services



- All children learn through activities that occur naturally in daily life.
- All children learn through interactions with familiar people.
- Parents and important caregivers are best able to help children grow and develop.





**Early Intervention Providers**

- Service Coordinators
- Early Intervention Specialists
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Psychological Associates
- Nurses
- Dietitians
- Social Workers
- Counselors






**Why Address Social and Emotional Development?**

**Social and emotional development is linked to positive developmental outcomes.**



“Emotional growth, patterns of attachment, the increasing competency to form relationships and the emergence of self confidence is as crucial to overall development as is physical growth, cognitive or motor skills. The physical, mental and emotional health of infant and toddlers provides the foundation for all further development.” (Jane Knitzer)

**What is Social and Emotional Development?**

- ❖ is developing the capacity to experience, regulate and express emotions;
- ❖ to form close and secure interpersonal relationships and;
- ❖ to explore the environment and learn;

...all in the context of the family and within the developmental and the cultural framework of the child and his/her family. (Zero to Three)



## Texas ECI

ECI programs are uniquely equipped to evaluate and support development, including social and emotional development.



## Relationships Matter

The parent-child relationship is the most important predictor of psychological and social outcomes in young children.

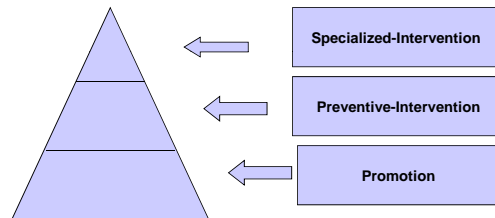


## Early Intervention Approaches to Service Delivery Support the Parent-Child Relationship

- ❖ Services are relationship-based.
- ❖ Services are based upon child and family strengths.
- ❖ Services recognize that each family and child is unique.
- ❖ Services occur in natural environments.
- ❖ Services acknowledge that learning occurs in the everyday interactions between a parents and children.



ECI addresses social and emotional development through a continuum of approaches when working with children and their families.



## ECI services focus on promotion and preventive-intervention.

- ❖ **Promotion:** Public awareness and education activities that stress the importance of responsive and nurturing interactions to a child's development.
- ❖ **Preventive-Intervention:** Services that are designed to support the parent-child relationship.



## Specialized intervention addresses issues impacting the parent-child relationship.

- ❖ Specialized Intervention is provided by a qualified mental health professional.
- ❖ Specialized Intervention includes referral to other community resources as appropriate.
- ❖ The central focus of specialized intervention is the parent-child relationship.



Early development happens through the everyday interactions between a parent or a primary care-giver and the infant or toddler.



### How to make a referral to ECI.

To find your local ECI program  
call the  
**DARS Inquiries Line**  
1-800-628-5115

TDD/TTY Line  
1-866-581-9328  
or go to  
[www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis](http://www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis)

