

Early Intervention Overview

Early Intervention (EI) provides home-based services for children birth to three years of age, who have, or are at risk of developmental delays or disabilities. Delays can be found in any of the five developmental domains (cognitive, communicative, physical, adaptive, or social/emotional). All children at Cincinnati Children's who may be at risk of, or who are suspected of having a developmental delay or disability in one of these categories, should be referred to EI to be evaluated for eligibility.

Questions?

If you have questions about the referral process for Cincinnati Children's patients:

Call: 513-636-7709

Email: childfind@cchmc.org

 **Ohio** | Department of
Developmental Disabilities



Cincinnati Children's

Child Find
OHIO EARLY INTERVENTION



What is Child Find?

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states are required to have a process to identify, locate and evaluate children who are at risk of, or who have a suspected developmental delay or disability. The Early Intervention (EI) program fulfills these requirements and services related to identifying children, through what is referred to as Child Find.



Child Find Specialist

Within Cincinnati Children's, Child Find services are fulfilled by a hospital-based Child Find Specialist. The Child Find Specialist's mission is to change the outcome for children not meeting or at risk of not meeting developmental milestones. Early identification and referral to Early Intervention is of great importance. The Child Find Specialist provides education and information to all healthcare providers about eligibility requirements and serves as the referral source and liaison between the hospital and the community. The Child Find Specialist also refers children at risk of, or with suspected developmental delays or disabilities, to Early Intervention.

Making a Referral FOR PROVIDERS

- Discuss developmental concerns or delays with the patient's family and why you think Early Intervention may be a good option for monitoring the patient's development.
- If a family is interested in services, complete an Early Intervention Referral Form and send to the Child Find Specialist at childfind@cchmc.org, or enter an order in EPIC.
- The Child Find Specialist is available to meet with families at your request to further discuss the next steps in the referral process and other details related to Early Intervention services.



FOR FAMILIES

- If you have concerns about your child's development, talk with your physician to see if an Early Intervention referral is appropriate.
- If your physician makes a referral, expect to hear from the intake team within a week to start the process of scheduling an evaluation.
- If you have concerns between medical appointments, feel free to contact Ohio Early Intervention yourself to have your child's development evaluated. EI staff can be reached at 1-800-755-4769.
- Know that Early Intervention services take place in the home, but can also take place at another location in the community where you feel comfortable.
- Services are provided at no cost to families.