

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION?

Early intervention refers to the supports and services designed to enhance the development of infants, toddlers and young children with developmental delays and disabilities. You can access these services through private providers or state-funded early intervention programs. In Delaware, there are two state programs supporting early intervention: Child Development Watch and Child Find.

DELAWARE'S STATE PROGRAMS

CHILD DEVELOPMENT WATCH (CDW)	CHILD FIND: LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CDW is Delaware's early intervention system for families of children birth to 3 with developmental delays or disabilities.	School districts provide special education and related services to eligible children ages 3 to 21. School districts can serve children under the age of 3, if they meet criteria for an educational classification of autism .
CDW will evaluate your child to determine if he/she is eligible for services. CDW may also offer you an evaluation to determine a diagnosis of autism .	Your district will evaluate your child to determine if he/she is eligible for special education and related services under an educational classification of autism .
Autism is an "established condition." This means if your child has a diagnosis of autism , you are eligible for early intervention services with CDW.	A diagnosis of autism does not automatically qualify your child for special education and related services. Your district will gather additional information to determine eligibility for an educational classification .
If your child is found eligible, your CDW team will work with you to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP is family-centered and you will develop both child and family goals.	If your child is found eligible, your district team will work with you to develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The IEP outlines your child's related service needs, goals and special education program.
CDW supports are specific to your child's and family's needs. Services may include Family Service Coordination; physical, occupational and speech therapy; nutrition services; and more.	Your district provides special education and related services specific to your child's needs. Related services may include physical, occupational and speech therapy and more.
CDW offers support in the natural environment (e.g. home or child care) and within your daily routines.	Your school district offers support in the classroom and sometimes in settings outside of school.

WHICH PROGRAM SHOULD I CONTACT?

You have the option to connect with and receive evaluations from both CDW and your school district. These programs work together to support families with autism concerns. If your child is found eligible for both programs, it is important to ask questions about the supports and services to best meet your child's and family's needs before choosing one.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES:

- Where will you support my child?*
- Will you come to my home?*
- What autism-specific support do you offer?*
- How often do you work with children with autism?*
- How often will you work with my child?*
- How will I be involved in supporting my child?*

Additional autism resource guides at:

delawareautismnetwork.org