

CONCERNED about your child's development?



Department of
Children & Youth

Help Me Grow Early Intervention

Getting Started

Supporting families with children from birth to age 3 who have **developmental delays or disabilities**, so they can have the best possible start in life.



Referral

Early Intervention, or EI, begins with a referral, which can be a self-referral. You will receive a call explaining services and what to expect. An assigned service coordinator will guide your family through each step of the process. Ultimately, your family decides whether to move forward.



Eligibility

One of the first steps is to determine if your child is eligible for EI. For some children, EI professionals determine eligibility by evaluating the child, reviewing medical reports, and talking with the parents. Other children are eligible because of a diagnosed condition.



Assessment

If your child is eligible, your assessment team will learn more about how your child is developing and what their interests are. This team works to understand your family's routines and what's important to you and your child.



Individualized
Family Service
Plan (IFSP)

The team, with the family at the center, uses the information gathered to create an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This plan outlines the services your family needs to help meet the outcomes you want, including when, where, and how these services will be provided. Your IFSP will be completed within the first 45 days of the referral and updated at least every six months.



Service Delivery

Services must start within 30 days of you signing the IFSP. Services happen during activities that are important to your family in places where your child spends their day, such as your home, childcare, or other places in the community. Each child is unique, and EI services focus on the specific needs of your family.

Throughout service delivery, your team will work closely with your family to help build your skills and confidence in supporting your child. As the EI journey comes to an end for your family, your team will help you make a smooth transition to your child's next learning environment.

Learn more or start the referral process at www.helpmehgrows.org

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Act early!

Early Intervention is available in every part of the state and to any eligible child, regardless of the family's income.

Early Intervention professionals support your family in identifying your child's strengths and needs and in addressing concerns as early as possible.

Early Intervention can address all types of concerns, such as physical development like crawling or walking, speech delays, and social interaction like playing with other children.

Early Intervention focuses on building skills with your family in places where your child already spends time, like at home, in childcare, and in the community.

If you're concerned that your child may have a delay or disability, it's important to refer them for Early Intervention as soon as possible.

Anyone can refer a child to Early Intervention. Families can make a self-referral for their child if they have developmental concerns. All it takes is a simple phone call or filling out a short form online.



**Department of
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Help Me Grow Early Intervention

(800) 755-GROW (4769)
www.helpmegrow.org

Early Intervention is part of the
Help Me Grow system of supports.



ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S BRIGHT FUTURE

with Help Me Grow's
Developmental
Screening Program.

Download the **Sparkler:** **Play for Parenting** app!

The Sparkler app has a built-in **Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)** to track developmental milestones quickly and easily. You'll get personalized results and support from a developmental screening specialist. Scan the QR code below and use the **access code OH** after downloading.



FREE for Ohio
families through
Help Me Grow.

**Screen today.
Shape Tomorrow.**

