

This
**Early Childhood
Intervention**
program works in association with
Texas Health and Human Services

Welcome to Early Childhood Intervention,

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) provides services to families with children from birth to 36 months of age who have developmental delays or disabilities.

Services are available in the following 12 counties:

Cooke, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise

This packet contains important information, documentation, and resources designed to support you and your child throughout your ECI journey.

Questions or concerns?

Please contact us at 1-888-754-0524

Table of Contents

Welcome & Program Overview

1. Welcome to Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program1
2. The ECI Coaching Model (Planning, Observation, Practice, Reflection, Feedback)..... 1-2
3. Your Role as a Parent & Primary Service Provider (PSP) Model2

Program Policies & Expectations

4. Health, Illness, and Infection Control Guidelines..... 3
5. Absent Without Notification Policy 4-6

Family Rights & Procedural Safeguards

6. Consent & Confidentiality..... 7
7. Resolving Disagreements (Complaints, Mediation, Due Process Hearings) 7-8
8. Licensing Information & Filing a Complaint 9

Fees, Insurance & Cost Share

9. Family Monthly Maximum Payments Sliding Scale 10-18
 - o Family Size 2-9 Income Tables
10. Additional Insurance Information (HRA, HSA, FSA) 19

Educational Articles & Family Resources

11. The Home Field Advantage in Early Intervention (Article) 20
12. A Day in Our Life (Family Story)21
13. Do The Math (Family Story) 22-23
14. Telehealth Services in ECI 24
15. Help Me Grow North Texas 25

Hearing & Specialized Supports

16. Your Baby's Hearing & ECI Services 26-27
17. Respite Services: Taking Time for Yourself 28-29

Family Planning & Development

18. Writing Goals for Your Child (Outcome Planning Pages) 30-31

Specialized ECI Services

19. Specialized Skills Training (SST): What Families Need to Know..... 32-33
20. CDC's Free Milestone Tracker App 34



My Health My Resources Tarrant County
3840 Hulen Street, Suite 602
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Referrals: 1-888-754-0524 or 817-446-8000
Fax: 817-569-4492

Welcome to the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Program

The ECI program follows rules and regulations established by the state and federal government, which require the use of evidence-based practices. Research in child learning and development has helped us to see the value of everyday activities that occur in your home or in your community as sources for children's learning opportunities.

Together we will identify the places and activities that are of interest to you and your child. Research has shown that, just like adults, children are more likely to pay attention to adults who are important in their life and learn doing activities that they find fun, interesting, and within their typical routines. We may meet in a variety of places and during activities that will help us to naturally work on outcomes that you have identified as hoping to achieve. Frequently these visits will occur at home, but may also include parks, restaurants, grocery stores, child care settings, or anywhere else that you identify as a natural learning environment.

During each ECI visit you also will be able to expect the following coaching format. All visits will involve you, your child, and an ECI coach. Coaching is a strategy used to help us, as adults, with improving existing abilities, developing new skills, and gaining further understanding of how to incorporate practices in other situations.

Planning: We will begin by reviewing our plan from the prior visit and discuss what has been tried or accomplished between visits. We will decide what we want to make sure to address in the present visit.

Observation: Your ECI coach will spend some time observing your child in your everyday activities as you are able to show us some of the activities that you all have tried over the past week. We also will want to hear if ideas or strategies shared in the prior visit were successful or not so helpful. Your ECI coach will then try some strategies and model an activity or strategy for you while offering explanations on why this activity/strategy may be helpful time to answer any questions.

Practice: We will then be able to practice the activity/strategy with help from each other. We will be able to revise and/or problem solve together. We want you and your child to feel very comfortable with all activities/strategies.

Reflection: Prior to the conclusion of every visit, your ECI coach will ask you about expanding upon the ideas/strategies of the day and you all can jot down a plan on how to incorporate into your child's routines in between our ECI visits. We also want to take time to answer any questions.

Feedback: The last 10 minutes of every visit will be spent together with your ECI coach documenting in your child's record. We will provide you with questions that we are responding to as we write your child's progress note. We want to collaborate with you and share your thoughts in your child's notes.

Please sit with your ECI coach and share your feedback. Your ECI coach will read back the note to you and together you all will clearly indicate your plan for what will happen in-between visits, as well as at the next visit.

You are such an important person in your child's life and you know your child best. We want to work closely with you to figure out what opportunities your child has to take part in your daily activities, what he/she likes to do, and what you and your family are doing and can do to help him/her take part in these activities. We will never work in isolation with your child because quite honestly, we are not the ones that will make a difference with your child. Every time you interact with your child, whether playing, dressing, bathing, feeding, or going on outings, you are impacting his/her learning and development.

In order to not interrupt what occurs in your everyday activities and routines, ECI will provide you with a Primary Service Provider (PSP) who will be able to support you with flexible activity-based scheduling. Your ECI PSP will be your primary contact, direct service provider, and in most instances, Service Coordinator. Your child will also have an entire team of ECI professionals supporting your PSP and your child and family. Your PSP will have at least weekly consults with your team and, if needed, may request a team member to join them on a visit, if additional guidance is needed. Since the success of your PSP's support to your child and family is often defined as the building of a sound relationship, your PSP will discuss the benefits of weekly visits for the development of relationships. She/he will also discuss possible opportunities for flexible scheduling, which will allow for intervention in a variety of activity settings with possible bursts of visits when your child or family needs additional support. After all, we do recognize that ECI is not the one making a difference in your child's life - YOU are.

As ECI coaches, we hope to provide you with some additional guidance and support which only enrich what you do every day.

*You make a difference each and every day
in the life of
your child!*

Thank you for inviting us to be a part of
your life!

Attachments:

- Documentation Sample Questions
- Articles produced by Florida State University:
 1. "The Home Field Advantage in Early Childhood Intervention"
 2. "Do the Math: Who Practices His Speech More?"
 3. "A Day in Our Life..."



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Dear ECI Parent:

We look forward to working with your child and family in your home. It is our greatest desire to be respectful of your family and to try to assure that our staff only makes visits when they are well and free of any illnesses. We have established guidelines to assist our staff and families in knowing when visits are not advised due to the risk of infection.

If your child or someone else in the household such as a brother, sister, or parent, is experiencing any of the following symptoms, we will not be able to work with your child that day:

- Temperature of 100.6 degrees or higher
- Child must be fever free for 24-hours, without the use of Tylenol
- Severe cold symptoms – cough, sneezing, congestion, green runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Any other routinely contagious disease (for example – chicken pox or pink eye)
- If child is placed on antibiotics for an infection, he needs to be on them for 24-hours before he is no longer contagious

If your child is ill with any of the above, he/she will not feel good enough to participate in early intervention services. If the ECI staff person comes to work with your child and notices some of the above conditions, he/she will not be able to finish the visit and will need to re-schedule it at another time.

Likewise, ECI staff persons who experience the above symptoms will need to cancel their visit with you. You will receive a call from the staff member or a program representative to cancel and your visit will be rescheduled.

You will notice that our staff will wash their hands and use hand sanitizer while in your home. We will also wear gloves if we need to work around your child's mouth. Hand washing is the single most effective mechanism to prevent the spread of germs.

The above guidelines are based on the State Health Department's recommendations for schools and child care centers. In general, if your child would be considered too sick to go to school or child care, then ECI should not come to your home for a visit.

As ECI employees, we want the best for your child, and we will strive to work with you to keep your child healthy. We look forward to working with you and your family!



Absent Without Notification Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

First and foremost, we thank you for choosing the Early Childhood Intervention Developmental Education Birth to Thirty-Six-Month Program for you and your child during these very important first three years of development. Together, we will exchange information, assess your child for eligibility, and if eligible, specifically design an individualized plan from an array of comprehensive services to assist your child in reaching his or her greatest potential. Our services are completely voluntary and if your child is eligible, you will determine your level of involvement within our program regarding ongoing services.

1. We are committed to providing consistent, quality services to you and your child in natural environments and, to the greatest extent possible, at times which are convenient to both you and your child.
2. We firmly agree that the mission of early intervention means that your child's success in reaching his or her developmental milestones depends greatly on our ability to regularly meet with you and your baby.
3. Along with others that also help your baby, together we are in partnership and understanding that to give you information, materials, and support to help you successfully work with your child, depends upon us meeting regularly with you. Therefore, we ask that:

Parent participation and partnership:

- Successful early intervention depends on a strong partnership between families and ECI providers.
- We ask that parents or authorized caregivers participate in scheduled visits, actively engage in learning and practicing strategies within daily routines, communicate openly with team members, and provide timely notice when appointments need to be canceled or rescheduled.

Your scheduled appointments:

- At times and places that are most convenient to you (We will try to accommodate your reasonable requests.);
- On a consistent basis for the appointments that are ongoing at a regular day and time; and
- Directly with your Service Coordinator and the Team members.

If you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment:

- Please call your Team member immediately and let him or her know about the cancellation and the need to reschedule.

OR

- Please notify your ECI team member, or their supervisor if needed, within 24 hours or as soon as possible when you need to cancel or reschedule an appointment. This includes cancellations due to illness.

“Real Parent Questions . . .” Answered

- What if I forget about an appointment . . . or an emergency happens and I cannot cancel in advance?

We understand that there may be an infrequent time or two when you cannot be at a scheduled appointment but for a variety of reasons, you have not notified us in advance. We ask that you call your Service Coordinator as soon as you realize the missed appointment and within 24 hours after the “absent without notice” and let us know you are still interested in continuing.

- What if I want fewer visits than what we are currently receiving? I want to do the best for my child . . . but my other commitments may become overwhelming and I don’t want to give the impression that I somehow won’t . . . will “just not be there” for appointments. Can I let you know I need something else or different for us?

If you would like to discuss a different level of service, desire for a change in service delivery, or to end services, please call your Service Coordinator and discuss all the different available options. Because each family and each child is unique (and may change) over a period of time; the level of our involvement with you needs to work best for you. We are very flexible to accommodate any changes and/or needs that you may have. We do not judge you or your parenting decisions about your child. We firmly recognize that you, the parent, are the child’s best advocate . . . and more importantly, you are the “expert” of your child.

In Conclusion

Our services are meant to be fluid enough to change with you and your child’s changing needs. However, because each Team member is working with many other children in addition to yours, a non-cancelled appointment could have been re-scheduled for another child. As we want to be responsive to each child and family, we will:

After two non-cancelled appointments and without hearing from you at all:

- After review with Network Manager, we will place your child on Service Coordination only status and begin active efforts to contact you.

- We will not continue to attempt to deliver services as listed on the current IFSP to you or your child until we have heard from you. We will continue to call you to determine your interest in services, but without response, will not engage in service(s) delivery.

And

- We will attempt to make contact via mail with you to ask about your desire to continue services.
- If there is no response within 14 days, we will discharge your child from services.

We will do our best to work together with you and your child to assist you in ways that will both promote and enrich your child's development as well as best serve your child and family.

Thank You,

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

Procedural Safeguards Related to Prior Written Notice and Consent

Consent

Your participation in Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) processes is voluntary. **You will not be required to pay for the screening or evaluation. However, with your permission we will bill your insurance company for the ECI evaluation.** Confidentiality of information is maintained according to the requirements in 40 TAC §108.233, 40 TAC §108.235, and 40 TAC §108.241. Your written consent is required in the majority of circumstances to release information. We will keep a copy of your record for a period of at least seven years, unless additional time is required per the ECI Provider Contract. Records are destroyed after the required time. Your consent is voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time. You may agree to some parts of these processes and not to others. If you do not give your consent for certain parts of these processes, we will discuss with you the implications of your decision (for example, we may not be able to evaluate all of your child's needs). You may request to review your records at any time.

Resolving Disagreements

The following explains how you can file a complaint or resolve a disagreement with ECI. This process can be used because of a disagreement about the evaluation process or results, or at any other time you disagree. It is also available to you if you are not satisfied about some experience you had in ECI that you think violated your rights.

You have a right to have your disagreement addressed by filing a complaint with Texas Health and Human Services (HHSC) ECI. You also have the right to take your complaint to an independent mediator or an administrative hearing. These are important rights and ones you have throughout your time in ECI. Refer to the ECI Parent Handbook or to 20 USC 33 §1415 Procedural Safeguards, 34 CFR Part 303 Subpart E Procedural Safeguards, 40 TAC Part 2 Chapter 101 Administrative Rules and Procedures, and 40 TAC Part 2 Chapter 108 Subchapter B Procedural Safeguards and Due Process Procedures at any time to review available procedural safeguards. In addition, your ECI provider can explain the process to you.

Following are summaries of the procedures available for resolving complaints or disagreements about ECI:

Resolving Problems Locally

Most disagreements between families and ECI programs can be resolved locally without going through the formal complaint process. Suggestions for resolving problems or concerns locally include:

- Contacting your local program director to discuss the concern and ask for a resolution.
- Calling the HHSC Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999 to ask to be connected with someone at the ECI State Office who can help resolve a problem or concern locally.

Filing a Complaint

If you are unable or do not want to resolve the issue locally, you have the right to file a complaint with HHSC ECI. You can file a complaint about an issue involving your child, or about any aspect of the ECI system that you believe violates legal requirements.

Send a letter, fax, or e-mail to the HHSC ECI office with a signed statement describing your complaint and requesting an investigation. Clearly state in writing the facts on which your complaint is based. You do not have to complain to your early intervention services program before filing a complaint with HHSC ECI, but you are required to send them a copy of your complaint at the time the complaint is submitted to HHSC ECI.

HHSC ECI must resolve the complaint within 60 days from the time they receive it. They will send you their findings and decision in writing.

Mediation

When HHSC ECI receives your complaint, they will contact you to offer mediation services. If you choose to try mediation, ECI will assign a neutral mediator (at ECI's expense) to see if the process can resolve the problem between you and your ECI program. Both you and the program will have to agree to use mediation. It is your choice whether to accept the offer of mediation or to proceed with your complaint.

You can request mediation without first filing a complaint or an administrative due process hearing. However, you would still need to provide a signed, written statement of the issues you want resolved. Contact the HHSC ECI office to make your request for mediation.

If you and the program come to an agreement through mediation, the mediator will help you and the program put the agreement in writing. A copy of the written agreement will be given to both you and the program. Mediation agreements are confidential.

NOTE: Mediation requests must meet certain requirements. Contact the HHSC ECI state office for more information regarding these requirements.

Administrative Due Process Hearing

You have the right to ask for an administrative due process hearing conducted by a hearing officer if you disagree with decisions made by your ECI team. This includes decisions about eligibility, evaluation and/or services. You can, but are not required to, ask for a hearing after trying one or more of the previous methods first (resolving problems locally, filing a complaint, mediation).

An administrative hearing is a more formal process than either filing a complaint or mediation. Though you are not required to have an attorney, some parents choose to hire one because the hearing process uses legal procedures most parents are not familiar with. If you hire an attorney, it is at your expense. You can also be represented or accompanied by someone who is not an attorney, but who has knowledge and training in early childhood intervention services.

The hearing process follows these steps:

- Upon receiving a signed, written request for an administrative due process hearing, the ECI Director appoints an impartial hearing officer who is neither an ECI staff member nor a provider of services to the child or family.
- The hearing officer contacts you to schedule a hearing. The hearing must be at a time and place that is convenient for both you and the other party.
- Either party may present evidence, require the attendance of witnesses, and question witnesses. Neither side can present evidence at the hearing unless it has been shown to the other party at least 5 days before the hearing.
- HHSC or the hearing officer records the hearing and provides an exact record of the hearing to the parties upon request.
- The hearing is closed to the public, unless you request it to be open.
- The hearing officer makes a decision within 30 days from the date a request for a hearing is filed. While the hearing is in process, your child, if enrolled in ECI, may continue to receive services, including those that may be in dispute.

To file a complaint with HHSC ECI, request an administrative due process hearing, or to request mediation, send your signed, written request or complaint by mail or fax to:

Director, Early Childhood Intervention Services
Texas Health and Human Services
1100 W 49th St, 4th Floor MC 3029
Austin, TX 78756
Fax: 1-512-776-4340

Complaints can also be filed by e-mail. To use e-mail, call the HHSC Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999 and ask them to tell you the procedures.



As of March 2021, some state licensing boards in Texas require that you be provided information to verify a therapist's license and to file a complaint.

If you have a complaint, we would first like to try to resolve it promptly by you calling us at **817-446-8000**. Your concerns are very important to us. However, if desired, you can contact the appropriate licensing board as listed below.

Occupational Therapy (OT)

Verify license: <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/look-up-a-license>

Complaint: <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/file-a-complaint>

Physical Therapy (PT)

Verify license: <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/look-up-a-license>

Complaint: <https://www.ptot.texas.gov/page/file-a-complaint>

Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)

Verify license: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/LicenseSearch>

Complaints: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/slpa/slpaforms.htm> -or-
<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/misc/ComplaintSignTDLR.pdf>

Registered Dietician (RD)

Verify license <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/diet/diet.htm>

Complaint: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/complaints/>

Registered Nursing (RN)

Verify license: <https://txbn.boardsofnursing.org/licenselookup>

Complaint: <https://txbn.boardsofnursing.org/complaint>

Mental Health Consultant (LPC, LMFT, LMSW)

Verify license: <https://www.bhec.texas.gov/verify-a-license/index.html>

Complaint: <https://www.bhec.texas.gov/discipline-and-complaints/index.html>



Health and Human Services Commission Early Childhood Intervention Services Family Monthly Maximum Charge Sliding Scale

Effective May 18, 2026

Family Size = 2

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$21,640 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$21,641 to \$32,460	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$32,461 to \$43,280	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$43,281 to \$54,100	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$54,101 to \$64,920	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$64,921 to \$75,740	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$75,741 to \$86,560	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$86,561 to \$97,380	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$97,381 to \$108,200	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$108,201 to \$119,020	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$119,021 to \$129,840	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$129,841 to \$140,660	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$140,661 to \$151,480	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$151,481 to \$162,300	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$162,301 to \$173,120	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$173,121 to \$183,940	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$183,941 to \$194,760	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$194,761 to \$205,580	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$205,581 to \$216,400	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$216,401 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Family Size = 3

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$27,320 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$27,321 to \$40,980	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$40,981 to \$54,640	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$54,641 to \$68,300	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$68,301 to \$81,960	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$81,961 to \$95,620	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$95,621 to \$109,280	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$109,281 to \$122,940	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$122,941 to \$136,600	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$136,601 to \$150,260	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$150,261 to \$163,920	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$163,921 to \$177,580	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$177,581 to \$191,240	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$191,241 to \$204,900	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$204,901 to \$218,560	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$218,561 to \$232,220	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%
\$232,221 to \$245,880	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$245,881 to \$259,540	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$259,541 to \$273,200	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$273,201 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Family Size = 4

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$33,000 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$33,001 to \$49,500	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$49,501 to \$66,000	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$66,001 to \$82,500	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$82,501 to \$99,000	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$99,001 to \$115,500	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$115,501 to \$132,000	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$132,001 to \$148,500	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$148,501 to \$165,000	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$165,001 to \$181,500	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$181,501 to \$198,000	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$198,001 to \$214,500	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$214,501 to \$231,000	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$231,001 to \$247,500	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$247,501 to \$264,000	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$264,001 to \$280,500	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%
\$280,501 to \$297,000	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$297,001 to \$313,500	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$313,501 to \$330,000	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$330,001 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Family Size = 5

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$38,680 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$38,681 to \$58,020	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$58,021 to \$77,360	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$77,361 to \$96,700	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$96,701 to \$116,040	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$116,041 to \$135,380	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$135,381 to \$154,720	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$154,721 to \$174,060	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$174,061 to \$193,400	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$193,401 to \$212,740	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$212,741 to \$232,080	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$232,081 to \$251,420	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$251,421 to \$270,760	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$270,761 to \$290,100	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$290,101 to \$309,440	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$309,441 to \$328,780	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%
\$328,781 to \$348,120	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$348,121 to \$367,460	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$367,461 to \$386,800	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$386,801 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Family Size = 6

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$44,360 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$44,361 to \$66,540	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$66,541 to \$88,720	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$88,721 to \$110,900	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$110,901 to \$133,080	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$133,081 to \$155,260	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$155,261 to \$177,440	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$177,441 to \$199,620	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$199,621 to \$221,800	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$221,801 to \$243,980	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$243,981 to \$266,160	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$266,161 to \$288,340	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$288,341 to \$310,520	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$310,521 to \$332,700	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$332,701 to \$354,880	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$354,881 to \$377,060	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%
\$377,061 to \$399,240	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$399,241 to \$421,420	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$421,421 to \$443,600	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$443,601 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Family Size = 7

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$50,040 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$50,041 to \$75,060	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$75,061 to \$100,080	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$100,081 to \$125,100	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$125,101 to \$150,120	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$150,121 to \$175,140	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$175,141 to \$200,160	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$200,161 to \$225,180	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$225,181 to \$250,200	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$250,201 to \$275,220	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$275,221 to \$300,240	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$300,241 to \$325,260	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$325,261 to \$350,280	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$350,281 to \$375,300	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$375,301 to \$400,320	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$400,321 to \$425,340	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%
\$425,341 to \$450,360	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$450,361 to \$475,380	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$475,381 to \$500,400	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$500,401 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Family Size = 8

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$55,720 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$55,721 to \$83,580	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$83,581 to \$111,440	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$111,441 to \$139,300	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$139,301 to \$167,160	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$167,161 to \$195,020	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$195,021 to \$222,880	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$222,881 to \$250,740	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$250,741 to \$278,600	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$278,601 to \$306,460	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$306,461 to \$334,320	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$334,321 to \$362,180	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$362,181 to \$390,040	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$390,041 to \$417,900	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$417,901 to \$445,760	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$445,761 to \$473,620	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%
\$473,621 to \$501,480	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$501,481 to \$529,340	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$529,341 to \$557,200	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$557,201 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Family Size = 9

Adjusted Family Income	Monthly Maximum Payments	Relation to FPL
\$61,400 or under	\$0	≤ 100%
\$61,401 to \$92,100	\$5	> 100% to ≤ 150%
\$92,101 to \$122,800	\$14	> 150% to ≤ 200%
\$122,801 to \$153,500	\$28	> 200% to ≤ 250%
\$153,501 to \$184,200	\$45	> 250% to ≤ 300%
\$184,201 to \$214,900	\$67	> 300% to ≤ 350%
\$214,901 to \$245,600	\$124	> 350% to ≤ 400%
\$245,601 to \$276,300	\$210	> 400% to ≤ 450%
\$276,301 to \$307,000	\$313	> 450% to ≤ 500%
\$307,001 to \$337,700	\$433	> 500% to ≤ 550%
\$337,701 to \$368,400	\$474	> 550% to ≤ 600%
\$368,401 to \$399,100	\$515	> 600% to ≤ 650%
\$399,101 to \$429,800	\$557	> 650% to ≤ 700%
\$429,801 to \$460,500	\$598	> 700% to ≤ 750%
\$460,501 to \$491,200	\$639	> 750% to ≤ 800%
\$491,201 to \$521,900	\$680	> 800% to ≤ 850%
\$521,901 to \$552,600	\$722	> 850% to ≤ 900%
\$552,601 to \$583,300	\$763	> 900% to ≤ 950%
\$583,301 to \$614,000	\$804	> 950% to ≤ 1000%
\$614,001 or over	the full cost of services	> 1000%

Additional Insurance Information

(Please review with families)



HRA – When permission to bill is given, any provided evaluations and services will be submitted to your insurance for processing. Any remaining HRA funds are applied towards these services per your employer guidelines.



You have the option to check the box on the consent form ***NO PERMISSION TO BILL*** and ECI will bill you for the cost of services provided up to the maximum family cost share amount.



Not all services may be covered under your specific insurance plan such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nutritional Services, Behavioral Services, and Specialized Skills Training. You may want to verify coverage with your provider. Services not covered by your insurance will be billed to you monthly, up to your maximum family cost share amount.



The Family Cost Share Amount is for the **entire family** regardless of the number of children served by ECI. However, a Family Cost Share agreement will need to be completed for each enrolled child.



The EOBs sent to you from your insurance company are an Explanation of Benefits. These will indicate what ECI has billed, what the insurance has paid and the patient responsibility. Your monthly Family Cost Share statement will be based on your patient responsibility up to your maximum family cost share amount.

	HRA	HSA	FSA
What is it?	An account set up and funded by your employer to help pay for qualified medical expenses.	A savings account (compatible with a high deductible plan) that you own to help pay for qualified medical expenses.	It's an account to help you pay for covered health care services and qualified medical expenses.
Who is eligible?	All employees enrolled in the plan as set by the employer	Anyone enrolled in a qualified high deductible health plan	You can sign up for a healthcare FSA if it is offered by your employer. You do not need to sign up for a health plan
Who owns the account?	Your employer	You	Your employer, but it's your money
Who can contribute?	Your employer	Anyone	You or your employer
How are the funds used?	Funds are automatically applied to pay any eligible expenses until funds are exhausted.	You decide what eligible expenses you use funds for or what you pay out of pocket.	You decide what eligible expenses you use funds for.

The Home Field Advantage in Early Intervention

Have you noticed that “home field advantage” plays a major role in who wins a sporting event? A football team from Minnesota has more practice making a touchdown in the snow than a team from Florida. Basketball games on the home court include loyal fans and familiar locker rooms. Baseball players have a favorite bat to use when they need a hit. These sports examples illustrate the importance of the “natural environment” for athletes striving to perform their best.



Above: Another win at the ballpark!

The concept of “natural environments” can be applied to early intervention for young children with special needs and their families. Children are most secure and learn best when they are with familiar adults, using typical toys and materials to complete their everyday activities and routines. When an early intervention EI provider comes to the child’s home or childcare

center and joins the normal, everyday routines, the child has the “home field advantage.”

The concept of natural environments is more than the place that routines occur. “The home field advantage” includes the activities and routines and how the caregivers and children participate in them. Learning opportunities occur throughout the day as children play, eat, get dressed, chase the dog, wave good-bye, climb stairs, and help with chores. Adults can coach the child by repeating actions, naming objects, or providing more practice in any of these routines. The early intervention service providers help family members and caregivers learn the best coaching techniques to help the child. Learning new skills in daily routines such as bath time or mealtime is an effective and time saving way that EI provider help parents and caregivers teach their child.

The family does not have to purchase special equipment either. The EI provider simply guides the caregiver to select pieces of furniture or toys that the child is already used to, and incorporates them into the things the family does... watching football, cooking, or working in the yard so the child can “perform” like a professional!



A Day in Our Life...



Today, I woke Katie with a cheerful “Good morning” and smiled. She gurgled, smiled back and reached up to me. I scooped her up for a morning hug.... and was tickled by her squeaks and giggles. We hurried to the bathroom to change diapers, wash up and get dressed. She stretched and kicked while I smoothed lotion on her bottom and legs. We played peek-a-boo with a diaper. She dropped it, looked down to the floor and then she looked up and squealed as if to say “Gotcha! Now you get it!” She sat up and pushed her arms through her sleeves and clapped, “We’re done!”

Everyday Katie and I spend about fifteen minutes in our morning routine getting ready for childcare. It is fun, fast and focuses on the tasks at hand. The tasks are the same as most moms with 9-month-old babies, but ours has added purpose. I focus on the skills she needs to learn to improve her motor and communication skills. Katie has cerebral palsy and receives early intervention services. Working in our natural environment is not like going to therapy. Instead, our EI providers teach me ways I can help Katie learn. I teach her within our daily play and routines, and Katie learns functional skills in meaningful activities.



It makes sense to practice the skills she needs to learn while she is using them. In other words, we are doing the “stuff” of everyday life and Katie is learning from it. It’s easy, effective and fun.

In our morning routine, Katie practices:

- ✓ Taking turns with actions and objects
- ✓ Sitting up
- ✓ Putting on clothing
- ✓ Making sounds and gestures to get my attention
- ✓ Looking for objects out of sight
- ✓ Showing affection



And we also:

- ✓ Complete stretches for her legs

Teaching and learning in daily routines means I can be mom, Katie can be my daughter, and we can work with the EI provider to teach me what I can do to help her. Playing, running errands, doing chores, reading stories, and cleaning house are opportunities for Katie to learn. Working with the EI provider has helped me understand how important common activities are and just how much can be accomplished through “a day in our life.”



ECI services increase the return on every dollar spent

Do the Math³

ECI plans services for infants and toddlers based on research which demonstrates that learning occurs between intervention sessions. During a session, the provider utilizes his/her professional knowledge, skills and expertise to share information with the child's regular caregiver. The caregiver then provides the intervention within the child's daily routines. Consider the following comparison for two children who have similar delays in speech and language development.

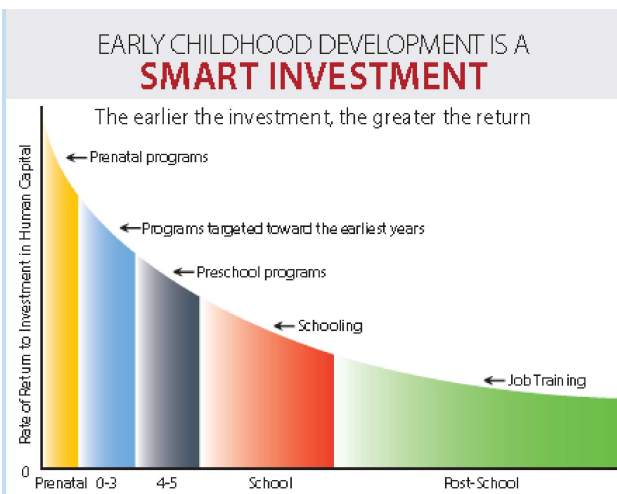
Michael

Day	Activity	Minutes
Monday	Names pictures and reads book during speech therapy session	45
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday	Sings songs and labels toys and actions during speech therapy session	45
Friday		
Total		90

Luke

Day	Activity	Minutes
Monday	Luke and parents work on speech strategies. Luke plays with trains. Discussion of last week's daily activities and progress/needs. ECI staff observes difficulties and provides feedback. Jointly plan to use trains for labeling, prompting, imitation, etc., to promote speech in daily activities. Mom demonstrates understanding by looking at train book with Luke and labeling objects around the train. Parents and ECI staff discuss other daily activities to incorporate these strategies.	60
	Mom labels foods and objects in grocery store with Luke	30
	Dad names colors of train toys and Luke's body parts during bath	10
Tuesday	Mom names foods at breakfast and Luke repeats	10
	Mom and Luke sing songs in car to child care	15
	Class colors trains and teacher names colors with class repeating	15
	Older sister shares picture book, naming pictures together	15
	Dad names and gives pajama choices to Luke; Luke points to choice	5
Wednesday	Mom stops for train and they count the cars as train goes by	10
	Teacher reads Things That Go and class repeats the sound each object makes, including trains	15
	Plays "card" game with sister and mom – cards are train-shaped	15
	Dad and Luke name food at dinner; Luke requests more	5

Day	Activity	Minutes
Thursday	Mom and Luke play "find the bus, find a truck" while in car	10
	Teacher and class sing alphabet song and point to letters while singing	15
	Luke names foods at dinner and Dad names new foods with Luke repeating	10
	Luke and sister play with trains saying "ready, set, go" before passing it back and forth	15
Friday	Mom and Luke name food at breakfast	10
	Mom and Luke sing songs in car to child care	15
	Luke name clothes with Dad while undressing	5
	Luke "reads" train book to Dad and names pictures	15
Total		300



Studies found that children who participate in high-quality early intervention/early childhood development programs tend to have:

- Less need for special education and other remedial work.
- Greater language abilities.
- Improved nutrition and health.
- Experienced less child abuse and neglect.⁴

"The highest rate of return in early childhood development comes from investing as early as possible, from birth through age five, in disadvantaged families. Starting at age three or four is too little too late, as it fails to recognize that skills beget skills in a complementary and dynamic way. Efforts should focus on the first years for the greatest efficiency and effectiveness."

James J. Heckman, Ph. D., Henry Schultz
Distinguished Service Professor of
Economics at the University of Chicago
and Nobel Laureate in Economics.

ROI and ECI

Economic analysis demonstrates programs that intervene early to improve child outcomes have returns on investment (ROI) from \$2.50 to \$17.07 for every dollar spent on early intervention services.⁵

Bringing ECI Services to Families through Telehealth

The Texas Health and Human Services Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program works with families of children, birth to 36 months, who have developmental delays or disabilities. ECI services are now also available through telehealth.

What is telehealth?

- Health services provided to families using video over a phone or computer.
- Telehealth allows you and your family to:
 - Learn techniques so you can be the primary teacher for your child in building new skills to help your child develop.
 - Receive ECI services when the provider can't come to your home.
 - Practice learning activities in a place that is comfortable for you and your child while your ECI provider offers suggestions, coaching, and support.

What equipment will my family need?

- Many families already have everything they need — an internet connection and a smart phone, tablet or laptop with a microphone and camera.
- ECI program staff can let you know if special software is needed to provide a secure connection.
- If you need help getting equipment or software, ECI staff may be able to offer resources or information.

"ECI flipped my initial thoughts about telehealth. At first, I was very skeptical but there is no better way to know it truly works than seeing the improvement in your child from one visit to the next."

Joselyn Martinez



"My son has been receiving therapy via telehealth and it has been a really great experience. It gives me comfort knowing he is still able to have his sessions and I am able to get specific strategies to work on with him."

Elizabeth Cisneros

What are the benefits of telehealth?

- Fewer people coming into your home, resulting in less exposure to germs.
- Flexible scheduling, making it easier to target times of the day you may need more help, such as meals or nap time.
- Both parents and/or other caregivers may be able to participate from different locations.



How does telehealth compare to in-person ECI visits?

- Research has shown that therapies delivered through telehealth can be just as effective as those delivered in person.
- You have the same rights in ECI whether you receive services through telehealth or in-person.
- You will not be charged a different fee for telehealth services.

What services are offered through telehealth? Will insurance cover them?

- Each ECI program may offer different services through telehealth.
- Medicaid plans cover many telehealth services. Private insurance may cover some telehealth services as well.
- Check with your insurance plan and your local ECI program to learn more.

How can families contact their local ECI program?

Visit citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us or hhs.texas.gov/eci or call 877-787-8999.



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**ENSURING
OUR CHILDREN
HAVE THE BEST
START IN LIFE**



Help Me Grow[®]

North Texas

**PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES IN SUPPORT
OF THEIR CHILD'S HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT**

Free
developmental
screening for every
child age 0 to 6

Help in answering
pregnancy, parenting
& child development
questions

Connecting to
community
resources and
supports

Scan here to download
the free CDC
Milestone Tracker App



Call or visit us online!
844-NTX-KIDS
(844-689-5437)
HelpMeGrowNorthTexas.org

Your Baby's Hearing

Early Childhood Intervention services help families with children who may have hearing loss



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Your newborn baby has just completed a series of hearing screenings. Sometimes babies do not pass their hearing screenings. Not passing the screening doesn't mean your baby has a hearing loss. It means your baby needs a hearing test.

Early Childhood Intervention can help you during this process. If your child has hearing loss, ECI can provide services to help your child grow and learn from birth to 36 months. Starting services early can help prevent delays in your child's development. From your baby's screening, you should have referral information for a hearing specialist. Make sure to call the specialist right away.

Also, your baby's information is now in the Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention system. TEHDI automatically notifies ECI so someone can call you.

Connecting with ECI

An ECI program in your area will call to talk about services and the next steps for your baby. ECI programs in Texas have various names and are part of bigger organizations like school districts, non-profits and community health centers. If you get a message from a program like that, even if you don't recognize the name, be sure to call them back because it could be ECI contacting you.

"My daughter was referred for follow-up testing after she did not pass the newborn hearing screening in the hospital. My husband and I did not want to rush into any further testing because we just wanted to enjoy our baby girl. We could have chosen to wait, but we decided to take the next step and have her hearing tested when she was around 2 weeks old. Looking back, we are so glad that we did because the test confirmed she had a hearing loss. We were able to get connected to ECI and to other resources that she needed right away. I realize now that taking action helped us understand early on that things would be okay for us as a family and for our daughter."

Michaela Hamaker, Austin

Your Baby's Hearing

Early Childhood Intervention services help families with children who may have hearing loss



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ECI Service Coordinators

To help you through the process, ECI will assign a service coordinator who will:

- Answer your questions.
- Help you locate your hearing specialist and make an appointment for the hearing test.
- Connect you to other resources.
- Help you find transportation resources for follow-up appointments, if needed.

Let the ECI program know if you have other concerns about your child's development or if your doctor has talked to you about other medical conditions. ECI might be able to provide additional services or help you find resources.

After the Hearing Test

- ECI will explain their services and answer any of your questions.
- Your service coordinator will explain how the ECI process works.
- Before your child turns three, ECI will help you connect with your local school district and explore community resources that may benefit your child and family.

Cost of Services

- ECI provides services to families of all income levels.
- Services provided at no cost:
 - ♦ Evaluation and assessment
 - ♦ Development of the child's individualized family service plan
 - ♦ Services from a certified teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing
 - ♦ Translation and interpreter services
 - ♦ Case management services
- Services with possible cost-sharing include support for other areas of development and additional therapy, such as speech, occupational or physical therapy.



Resources for Families

To find your community ECI program, go to the ECI Program Search page at citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us or call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use the relay option of your choice, or dial 7-1-1 to connect with Relay Texas.

Early Childhood Intervention
hhs.texas.gov/eci

Texas Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
dshs.texas.gov/tehd
tehdi@dshs.state.tx.us
800-252-8023 ext. 7726

Texas Hands & Voices
txhv.org
office@txhv.org
936-463-8948

Statewide Outreach Center at the Texas School for the Deaf
tsd.state.tx.us/apps/pages/soc
soc@tsd.state.tx.us
512-462-5329

Respite: Taking Time for Yourself

Early Childhood Intervention helps families with children who have developmental delays or disabilities



Sometimes, the best thing you can do for your child is take some time for yourself.

What is respite?

The word respite means “break” or “relief.” Respite services are designed to offer families a break from caring for their child with developmental delays or disabilities. Respite allows parents time to take part in activities that they find relaxing, entertaining, or restful while a respite provider cares for their child.

A respite break can mean an hour to take a walk while a respite provider stays in your home to care for your child. It may be a weekend away while your child is cared for outside of your home. It can also mean time to take a nap or see a friend while the respite provider takes care of your child.

How can respite help my family?

Parenting is a difficult job and every parent can benefit from a break. Caring for a child with developmental delays or disabilities presents additional challenges that go beyond the everyday stresses of parenting. As a result, you may need longer rest periods or more down time. In addition, it may also be more difficult to find a qualified person to care for your child. Respite can help with these challenges.

Respite can help strengthen your whole family. It can help decrease stress and help increase your family's health and wellbeing. In addition to giving you and other caregivers some rest, it may help free up time to spend with other members of your family.

How is respite different from day care?

Day care and traditional child care are provided on a daily or regular basis so parents can go to work or school. Respite, on the other hand, is typically provided on an irregular or short-term basis to provide the parent with a break from caring for their child with developmental delays or disabilities.

Is respite care right for my family?

Respite may be right for you if:

- You have a hard time finding temporary care for your child.
- Your child's needs require a caregiver with special training or experience.
- You think time to relax and refresh would help you better meet the needs of your child.
- Other members of your family (children and spouse) would benefit from more of your time and attention.

Tips for finding a respite provider:

- Ask your ECI service coordinator to help you find providers in your circle of friends and family or in your community.
- Ask family members, friends, other parents, or your child's doctor, teacher, or therapist for recommendations.
- Find providers in your community on the following website: apps.hhs.texas.gov/taketimetexas
- Call the 2-1-1 information and referral line.
- Search for child care providers through the state's Child Care Licensing website: www.dfps.state.tx.us/child_care/search_texas_child_care
- Contact local college for students studying in fields such as child development, education, nursing, physical, occupational, or speech therapy.
- Contact your local children's hospital.

Respite: Taking Time for Yourself

Early Childhood Intervention helps families with children who have developmental delays or disabilities



How are respite services provided?

There are many ways respite may be provided. Respite care varies in the following ways:

Who provides care for your child

- A family member who does not live in the same household.
- A family friend or other individual chosen by your family.
- An employee, contractor, or volunteer of the respite program chosen by your family.

Respite provider's level of training

- Trained by your family
- Trained by the respite program
- Advanced medical training

Where respite takes place

- In your home
- Outside of your home
- At the home of the respite provider
- In the community (school, playground, community center)
- At a licensed home or facility

What type of setting

- Individual (your child plus provider)
- Group Setting (group of children plus provider)

If you are interested in respite you may want to talk with your service coordinator and consider the following steps:

Interview the possible respite provider

Ask questions such as:

- Why do you enjoy spending time with children?
- Have you worked with children with developmental delays or disabilities?
- May I complete a background check?

Do a background check

Families hiring their own respite care provider may be interested in completing a criminal background check or asking for references. Ask your ECI service coordinator for resources that may help you.

Leave written instructions regarding the care of your child

Parents know best what a respite provider needs to know about their child in order to provide the best care. Written instructions explaining both basic and specific needs such as your child's diet, sleeping habits and medications will be helpful for your respite provider.

Follow up on the care of your child

It is important for a parent to talk with their respite provider following respite to find out what went well and what may need to be handled differently. The parent should take into account not only the respite provider's response, but their child's response as well. This information will help make future respite work well for everyone.

Your ECI program may have funds to help you pay for respite services. Ask your ECI service coordinator about:

- Levels of funding based on level of care needed.
- The availability of ECI respite funds.
- Process for prioritizing requests.
- Wait list policy.
- Annual hourly limit.
- Annual total dollar limit.

Examples of Possible Use of Respite Time

Reason for Respite	How Often	Length of Time	Amount of Time	Type of Respite (in home vs. out of home)
Primary caregiver would like to spend time with partner/spouse	One day per week	2 hours	8 hours/month	Out of home
Primary caregiver needs one on one time with other child	Twice a month	2 hours	4 hours/month	No preference
Primary caregiver would like to relax at home	Two days per week	1 hour	8 hours/month	Out of home
Primary caregiver would like to join support group	One day per week	1 hour	4 hours/month	In home

Help your child learn every day!



Building relationships

We want your child to have positive social-emotional skills so she will be able to make friends, give and receive affection, and engage with family members and caregivers.



goals
for

write your child's name here

It's your turn to write goals that are individualized for your child. When your child reaches all these goals, turn the page over for more room to write new goals.

•• Building relationships

Learning new things

We want your child to gain and use knowledge and skills so he can communicate with friends and family members, understand and follow directions, learn problem-solving skills, and play with toys.



••• Learning new things

Doing it myself

We want your child to use appropriate behaviors to meet his needs so he can move from place to place, feed himself, stay safe, and dress himself.



•••• Doing it myself

Turn this flyer over for information and resources you can use to teach your child.

Children learn through everyday experiences and through interactions with important people in their lives.

- ✓ You are your child’s first and best teacher.
- ✓ You are the expert about your child.
- ✓ Your input matters.



Making progress!
Give me more goals!



Building relationships

Learning new things

Doing it myself

Parenting Resources

These websites and apps have information on developmental milestones and tips to support your child’s development.

The Baby Center*

www.babycenter.com/milestone-charts-birth-to-age-3



Baby Major Steps

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.everbum.blgm>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones



Just in Time Parenting*

www.jitp.extension.org



Vroom*

www.joinvroom.org



Zero to Three*

www.zerotothree.org/parenting-resources/ages-and-stages



*Some or most information available in Spanish.

To find the number of the ECI program in your area, or for questions or complaints, call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 1-877-787-8999.

For persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, please use the relay option of your choice.



Health and Human Services Commission
Early Childhood Intervention Services
6330 Hwy 290 East Austin, Texas 78723
hhs.texas.gov/eci-programs



ECI-39_0916

Specialized Skills Training: What Families Need to Know

Early Childhood Intervention helps families with children who have developmental delays or disabilities



hhs.texas.gov/eci

Specialized Skills Training increases your ability to help your child learn new skills. SST is a unique early intervention service only offered by Early Childhood Intervention. A child can receive both SST and therapy services. SST and your child's other ECI services work together so you can help your child:

Develop positive social-emotional skills (making and keeping friends).

Learn new developmental skills and know how to use them.

Learn to meet his needs himself (walking, talking, eating, dressing).



What is Specialized Skills Training?

SST:

- Shows you how to help your child learn with a focus on thinking skills, behavior and social skills. These are all skills your child needs to be ready for school.
- Shows you ways to help your child during your family's everyday activities by using items in your home or childcare center.
- Teaches you about your child's development and what should be happening next.

Who Provides SST?

Early Intervention Specialist

Only an EIS is qualified to provide SST. To receive the EIS credential, ECI professionals are required to have at least a bachelor's degree with coursework related to early childhood intervention. EISs must also successfully complete specialized post-graduate training. EISs have expertise in:

- How infants and toddlers grow and learn, including thinking and social skills.
- How all areas of development are related.
- Common infant and toddler behavior, including biting, picky eating and sleep problems.
- How to use activities you do every day to help your child's development.

What happens at an SST visit?

Your EIS will schedule visits to join you during activities you request help with, either at home or in your community. The skills you learn during SST will help your child meet her specific developmental goals.

The following are a few examples of activities that might happen during an SST visit.

Learning and using words

The EIS shows you how to set up your child's play area to encourage him to use words to ask for his favorite toys.

The EIS shows you ways to use pictures of food to help your child make choices during snack time.

Behavior and reducing tantrums

The EIS suggests ways to help your child know when she needs to stop one activity and move to the next. The EIS supports you as you practice these ideas and offers suggestions on other things to try.

The EIS meets you at the grocery store and teaches you ways to help your child stay calm so you can complete your shopping.

Rolling, sitting and walking

The EIS helps you use your baby's toys to teach him to roll over, sit up, and eventually walk.

Specialized Skills Training: What Families Need to Know

Early Childhood Intervention helps families with children who have developmental delays or disabilities



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Working Together as a Team

Child

- I learn and develop most rapidly during the first three years of my life.
- I learn best during everyday activities such as bathing, eating or playing.
- I learn best from my family and friends.
- I learn best when the people who care for me practice the activities they have learned from the ECI team with me every day.
- I am an individual with unique needs and strengths.



Parent or Caregiver

- I am my child's first and best teacher.
- I share my concerns and questions about my child's development with the ECI team.
- I am an active team member in helping my child reach his or her next step in development.
- I practice activities the team suggests between ECI visits.



Early Intervention Specialist

- I will observe your family's activities and ask what is important to you.
- I will ask questions to learn how to best support you in daily interactions as you care of your child.
- I will answer your questions about your child's development and how to best meet his or her needs.
- I will ask about activities you tried and help you decide what works and what does not work.
- I will help you plan new activities to help your child. Together, we will plan what you can do between visits.
- My goal is to improve your child's development by showing you activities you can use every day.



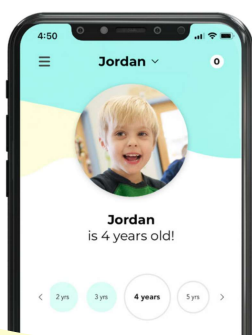
To locate an ECI program in your area:

Visit the HHS ECI program search page at citysearch.hhsc.state.tx.us
or call the HHS Office of the Ombudsman at 877-787-8999.

Help your child grow and thrive

Your child's early years are so very important. Tracking how your little one plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves helps you support their development.

Download CDC's free *Milestone Tracker* app to find fun and easy activities for each age.



Track & Share
Milestones



Get Tips &
Activities



Learn When
to Act Early

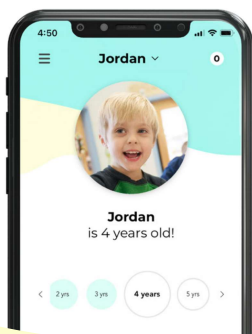
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