

CHILD FIND

Evaluation

As part of Early Intervention, Saratoga County also provides developmental screening and tracking for all infants and toddlers under the age of 3, who are considered at-risk for disability or delay. Criteria for considering high risk includes:

- a gestation less than 32 weeks
- birth weight less than 1800 grams
- 10 days or more in neonatal or special care unit
- mothers 16 years and younger
- child resides in a home that was part of an indicated case of child abuse or neglect
- parental mental illness or developmental disability
- prenatal exposure to drugs or alcohol
- other high-risk criteria indicating potential for developmental delay

Services provided:

- support in child's care
- information about community services available
- periodic assessment and screening of the child until age 3
- helping the parent/guardian to contact their doctor to follow the child's growth and development more closely



Young children learn and develop differently. One baby may walk earlier than another, while another baby might talk first. Often, these differences will even out. But, some children will need extra help.

Look for signs that your infant or toddler might need extra help. Early help makes a difference! If your child does have a problem, the earlier you get help, the better.

If you are a resident of Saratoga County, you can get more information about our Early Intervention Program services by contacting:

*Saratoga County
Early Intervention Program
31 Woodlawn Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866*

Phone: (518) 584-7460, Ext. 8398

Fax: (518) 583-2498

Website:

www.saratogacountyny.gov



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Saratoga County Public Health



Early Intervention Program and Child Find Program

**No cost evaluations and services
for infants and toddlers under
the age of three**



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Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
(518) 584-7460

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The New York State Early Intervention Program (EIP) is part of the national Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. First created by Congress in 1986 under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the EIP is administered by the New York State Department of Health through the Bureau of Early Intervention. In New York State, the Early Intervention Program is established in Article 25 of the Public Health Law and has been in effect since July 1, 1993. Each county oversees the program for its residents.

To be eligible for services, children must be under 3 years of age and have a confirmed disability or established developmental delay, as defined by the State, in one or more of the following areas of development: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and/or adaptive.

* **Physical** – includes vision and hearing, gross, fine motor skills.

* **Cognitive** – play skills, attention, memory, problem solving, sorting skills and visual perception.

* **Communication** – how the child understands what is said and how the child uses sounds, words or gestures to let others know what he/she wants.

* **Social/Emotional** – how the child interacts with others and expresses his/her emotions and feelings.

* **Adaptive Development** – self help, including feeding and dressing skills.

REFERRAL

As a parent you can refer your child to your Early Intervention Program if you suspect a problem. Parents must give permission to have their child evaluated.

Professionals also must refer babies and toddlers to the Early Intervention Program if there is a concern about the child's development.

EVALUATION

Services begin with an initial home visit with a Service Coordinator. A Service Coordinator will then assist the family in determining the needs of the child — utilizing all available resources to help the family meet the special needs of their child in the most natural environment (home, child care center or family day care, and recreational settings like play grounds, libraries, play groups). During the initial visit, the Service Coordinator will assist the family in scheduling a multidisciplinary evaluation.

Multidisciplinary simply means that more than one professional will be a part of the child's evaluation. The child's evaluation team should have:

- A professional who can look at the child's overall development.
- A professional with special knowledge about the child's problem. For example, if the child is delayed in sitting up, walking, or other motor abilities, a motor therapist might be on the child's team.

SERVICES

Once the child is found to be eligible for the Early Intervention Program, a Service Coordinator will facilitate an IFSP meeting for the purpose of developing an Individualized Family Service Plan with the family.

The Early Intervention Program offers a variety of therapeutic and support services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, including:

- family education and counseling, home visits, and parent support groups
- special instruction
- speech pathology and audiology
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- psychological services
- service coordination
- nursing services
- nutrition services
- social work services
- vision services
- assistive technology devices and services

