



# Early Intervention A

## Pediatrician's Guide to Better Outcomes

### What It Is

Early Intervention (EI) is a state-funded program to provide family-centered support focused on developmental outcomes for children ages 0–3 with qualifying diagnoses or risks of developmental delays.

**Pediatrician's Role:** Pediatricians play an important role in EARLY intervention:

### EARLY

- **Evaluate:** Use tools like ASQ-3 and M-CHAT to identify concerns early.
- **Advocate:** Insist on high-quality, evidence-based, family-centered services delivered in the family's home.
- **Refer:** When in doubt, refer. Early referral = maximized outcomes.
- **Link:** Foster a collaborative link with the early intervention providers to make monitoring easier.
- **You Matter:** You have the power to influence policies, shape systems, and advocate for equitable access to early intervention.

### Why It Matters

- Referrals from pediatricians are an important path to services.
- EI + Medical Home = Better Outcomes
- \$1 invested = up to \$8 saved in future costs.

In alignment with the AAP, physicians should refer to programs that provide:

- Services focused on supporting the child's participation in real-life meaningful family activities (mealtime, bath, grocery shopping, dressing, etc.).
- Services focused on building the capacity of caregivers use evidence-based strategies to support their child between the provider's visits.