

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.

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.

Pediatrician's Role

Pediatricians play an important role in EARLY intervention:

E Evaluate: Use tools like ASQ-3 and M-CHAT to identify concerns early.

A Advocate: Insist on high-quality, evidence-based, family-centered services delivered in the family's home.

R Refer: When in doubt, refer. Early referral = maximized outcomes.

L Link: Foster a collaborative link with the early intervention providers to make monitoring easier.

Y You Matter: You have the power to influence policies, shape systems, and advocate for equitable access to early intervention.



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.



Family, Infant and Preschool Program
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