

WHY EARLY INTERVENTION?



Pediatric physical therapy is a rewarding field. Many students and new professionals interested in pediatrics do not consider early intervention as an option when looking at career paths, and the field is in need of PTs with a passion to support children and families. Early Intervention (EI) is a system funded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that provides services for children and families in the context of natural learning environments. If you are considering a career in pediatrics, here are four reasons why early intervention could be the perfect choice for you!

1

The first three years of life are when many important motor skills such as sitting, walking, throwing, and other balance tasks emerge. What's more, children aged 0-3 have more neuroplasticity and potential for motor learning. The intervention children receive in the first three years impacts their mobility and function for the rest of their lives.

2

EI providers work in home, community, and childcare settings to help caregivers learn how to use evidence-based strategies during daily routines and activities. This is an opportunity to set families up for success across the lifespan and see not only children, but families become stronger and learn skills that will benefit individuals and communities for years to come.

3

EI PTs often work on teams that include PT, OT, SLP, Teachers, Nurses, Nutritionists, Social Workers, and other professionals. This provides opportunities to seek mentorship and learning from a variety of areas. While EI PTs may need to access sources like the APTA or state PT associations for formal mentorship, they also have many chances to learn and grow from team members in ways that other PTs cannot always access.

4

Early Interventionists have the opportunity to build their own flexible schedule and often have the option to do some work from home. In addition, EI is the perfect setting for PTs who love variety as EI practitioners travel to various locations during the week and get out of the clinic to spend time in homes and communities. This is the perfect setting for PTs who love adventure and crave variety in their days!