

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Ages 0–3: A Quick Guide



What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention (EI) provides supports and therapies for children ages birth to 3 who have developmental delays or disabilities. The focus is to offer support to families in helping their infants and toddlers reach their full potential and gain skills in:

- Talking
- Walking
- Social interaction
- Learning and play



Who can access Early Intervention Services?

Eligibility is determined through **Part C** of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) under the category Infant/Toddler with Disability.

EI is for children ages 0–3 who either:

- Have a diagnosed condition likely to cause developmental delays (e.g., Down syndrome, cerebral palsy), or

- Show a significant delay in one or more of the following developmental areas: cognitive, physical (including vision and hearing), communication, social/emotional, and/or adaptive functioning.

Services must be provided in the child's natural environment, such as their home or daycare, and are guided by an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

How The Arc Can Help

Our advocates provide:

Navigation Help: Assisting families in understanding the process and connecting with the right service providers.

Advocacy Support: Helping families if they feel their child's needs aren't being met or are denied services.

Referral Info: Connecting families with Colorado's Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Early Intervention Colorado.

Guiding families to **Child Find** evaluations, which are free screenings provided through local school districts or EI programs.

Transition at Age 3: As children near their third birthday, The Arc helps families understand:

- The transition to preschool special education services (Part B of IDEA)
- Whether the child will qualify for an IEP or other services
- What steps to take during the transition planning meeting

Connect with us!



The Arc – Jefferson, Clear Creek & Gilpin

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