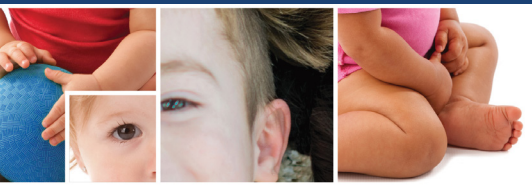
Don't wait. ACT early!

Refer a family for Early Intervention services today.

HOW EI WORKS: Follow the roadmap

If a child is automatically eligible, these are the steps that occur after you refer them to Help Me Grow Early Intervention:

Let's make sure every child gets the best possible start in life.



Early Intervention (EI) begins with a referral. Once the family decides to move forward, a service coordinator helps them with each step in the process.



Complete a secure, online web referral form at **www.helpmegrow.org.**

Call **(800) 755-GROW (4769)** to speak with an intake specialist.

Fax a referral form to **(855) 318-3322** or **(855) 418-3322.**

Early Intervention is part of the Help Me Grow system of supports.



Eligibility

A child can be found eligible based on documentation of a diagnosed condition or by a comprehensive evaluation of the child.



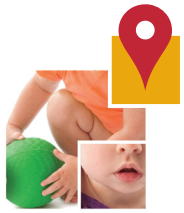
Assessment

An assessment team will complete a comprehensive review of the child's development in all areas, and learn about the family's routines and priorities to identify strengths, needs, and desired outcomes.



Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

The team, with the family at the center, uses the information gathered to create an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). It details the services needed to help the family meet the outcomes they want, along with when, where, and how these services will be provided. The IFSP will be completed within the first 45 days of referral and updated at least every six months.



Service Delivery

Services must start within 30 days of the family signing the IFSP. Services happen during activities that are important to the family in places where the child spends their day such as at home, childcare, or other places in the community. Each child is unique, and EI services focus on the specific needs of the family.



Throughout service delivery, a team will work closely with the family to help build their skills and confidence to support their child. As the EI journey concludes, the team will help the family make the smooth transition to the child's next learning environment.

Learn what makes a child

AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE

for Help Me Grow Early Intervention

Ohio™

Department of Children & Youth

Help Me Grow Early Intervention

www.helpmegrow.org

Early Intervention (EI) services are available statewide to all eligible children, regardless of family income.

EI professionals work with families to identify their child's strengths and needs, addressing concerns as early as possible.

Did you know?

Ohio updated its EI eligibility in 2024. There are more than 30 diagnoses that make an Ohio child automatically eligible for EI services.

Referring to EI early helps a family access valuable support and can have a profound impact!

Research has shown:

- Just 20—30% of children who could benefit from EI are identified as needing help before school begins.
- 1 in 3 infants and toddlers who received EI services did not later present with a disability or require special education in preschool.

Diagnoses that make a child automatically eligible for Early Intervention

A	Attachment Disorder Autism spectrum disorder	**D**	Deaf/blindness Deafness, including hearing impairments	**M**	Microcephaly Muscular dystrophy
B	Blindness, including visual impairments Blood lead level >=5 µg/dL Brain malformation, including but not limited to, Dandy-Walker syndrome, agenesis of the corpus callosum, and holoprosencephaly	**E**	Epilepsy	**N**	Neonatal abstinence syndrome Neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome Newborn with extreme prematurity (<28 weeks) Newborn with neonatal intensive care unit stay greater than 30 days Newborn with very low birth weight (i.e., less than 1,500 grams or 3.3 lbs) diagnosed at birth or within 30 calendar days after birth
		F	Fetal alcohol syndrome		
		H	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome Hydrocephalus Hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy		
C	Cerebral Palsy Chromosomal abnormalities, including but not limited to, trisomy 21 (Down syndrome), trisomy 13 (Patau syndrome), trisomy 18 (Edwards syndrome), 22q11.2 (DiGeorge syndrome), and fragile X syndrome Cranio-facial anomalies, including cleft lip and palate, craniosynostosis, hemifacial anomalies, and plagiocephaly Cyanotic heart conditions, excluding simple atrial septal defects, ventricular septal defects, and isolated valve disease Cystic fibrosis	**I**	Inborn errors of metabolism, including but not limited to phenylketonuria, homocystinuria, galactosemia Infant of untreated mother of phenylketonuria Infection (fetal/neonatal) of herpes, syphilis, cytomegalovirus, toxoplasmosis, or rubella Intraventricular hemorrhage (grade IV)	**P**	Perinatal stroke (stroke in fetus or newborn)
				S	Sickle cell anemia Spina bifida Spinal muscular atrophy
				T	Traumatic brain injury, including shaken infant syndrome

Effective July 2024
Part C, all automatic eligibility diagnoses: bit.ly/OHEIDiagnoses

What documentation is needed if a child has a diagnosis that would make them automatically eligible?

In order for a child to be automatically eligible based on one of the diagnoses listed to the left, all that is needed is written documentation of the diagnosis signed by the medical professional. Documentation must include the child's name and date of birth.

What if the child does not have a diagnosis making them automatically eligible?

If the child is not automatically eligible, then they could be made eligible with an evaluation or completion of the **EI-12 form**. It must first be signed by the parent so information about the child's diagnosed condition can be exchanged between EI staff and the medical professional. Once the parent grants consent, the EI-12 form is signed by the medical professional indicating a diagnosis that is likely to cause a developmental delay and then sent to Help Me Grow.