

NC Early Intervention Program 2009-2010

At-A-Glance

What is Early Intervention?

Early intervention is a family-centered program for infants and toddlers with special needs.

Early intervention connects these families to a broad spectrum of service providers to help children reach their maximum potential.

Early intervention services help nurture the growth and development of children, birth to three years old, and provide support to their families.

North Carolina's early intervention program is called the Infant-Toddler Program.

Why Does Early Intervention Matter?

Research on early development shows that the first three years are the most important time for learning in a child's life. Beginning early intervention services improves a child's lifelong ability to develop and learn. Early intervention reaps immediate and long-term benefits for children and their families.

The ABCs of Early Intervention

Early Intervention enhances **A** child's development.

Children enrolled in the Infant-Toddler Program demonstrate improved social, learning, language and behavioral skills.

Families **B**enefit, too.

Families report that early intervention services have helped them to know their rights, effectively communicate their children's needs, and help their children develop and learn.

Early intervention is **C**ost effective.

The cost of helping a child develop is less when intervention happens early, thus potentially preventing developmental problems that would require special services later in life.

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Did You Know That in 2008-09...?

Census data showed **398,879** infants and toddlers (0-3 years of age) living in NC

Early intervention services were delivered to **4.6%** of NC's population who are younger than three years old

17,606 infants and toddlers were enrolled in the Infant-Toddler Program.

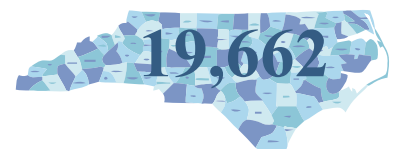
Of the children served,

51% were White
27% were Black
18% were Hispanic

63% were boys
37% were girls

19,662 infants and toddlers were referred to the Infant-Toddler Program

The average age of the child at time of referral to the Infant-Toddler Program was **16** months



Top 5 Referral Sources to the Infant-Toddler Program

Physicians	37%
Parents/Caregivers	14%
Hospitals	7%
Local Public Health	6%
NICUs	6%

How Does the NC Infant-Toddler Program (ITP) Work?

The Children’s Developmental Services Agency (CDSA) is the local lead agency that administers, supervises and monitors local activities for the ITP. There are 18 CDSAs in North Carolina serving all 100 of the state’s counties.

Parents/caregivers, physicians and others can refer a child to the ITP if there are concerns about the child’s development.

The family’s experience

Families understand and know the needs of their children better than anyone else. Therefore, the ITP values and considers the role of the family as key to the success of early intervention.

After a referral is made, the CDSA will contact the family to discuss the child’s medical and developmental history. Parents can decide at this point whether to proceed to the evaluation and assessment step for their child.

If the evaluation and assessment determine that the child’s developmental needs qualify him/her for the ITP, a service coordinator will convene a meeting for all members of the child’s team, which includes the family, to develop an individualized family service plan (IFSP). The IFSP lists the services a child will need to grow and develop, as well as the services that the family will need to help the child grow and reach his/her full potential.

Services listed on the IFSP will begin no later than 30 days after the IFSP has been developed and signed by the family. Teamwork among families and service providers is important for planning early intervention supports and services.

Just as children and families grow and develop, so too will supports and services be routinely evaluated to ensure they meet the child’s and the family’s needs and choices.

Focus & Challenge

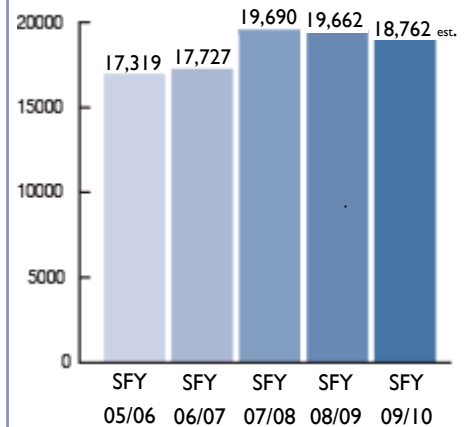
The ITP has four monitoring priorities and 13 indicators by which the state measures the effectiveness of the program.

The indicators are the cornerstones that ensure state and federal regulations are being met, and that infants, toddlers and their families are receiving high quality early intervention services. Data on the program’s performance in each of the 13 indicators is collected annually, and the results are collected in the Annual Performance Report (APR), available from your CDSA or at www.ncei.org.

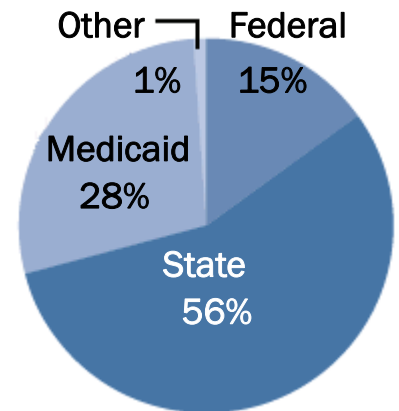
There is an ongoing commitment to identify, locate and evaluate all infants and toddlers in NC who are in need of early intervention services.

All data, unless otherwise noted, reflects SFY 08-09. Data sources include reports from the NC State Center for Health Statistics, Early Intervention Branch databases, the Comprehensive Exceptional Children’s Accountability System (CECAS) and Health Services Information Systems (HSIS).

Numbers of Children Under Age Three Years Referred to ITP by State Fiscal Year (SFY)*



How is Early Intervention Funded?



Your Local CDSA

**NC Early Intervention Branch,
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5605 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-707-5520
www.ncei.org

