



# Common Questions About Early Intervention in Childcare Settings

## WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION (EI)?

Kentucky's Early Intervention (EI) helps babies and toddlers with delays or disabilities. Sometimes a child may be doing fine in some areas but still need help in others - delays aren't always easy to see. The goal is to support families and caregivers so children develop and take part in everyday life, focusing on:

- Learning and problem-solving
- Moving and getting around safely
- Communicating
- Playing and getting along with others
- Doing daily tasks like eating or dressing
- Understanding others

## WHO PROVIDES EI SERVICES?

Early interventionists coach the people who are with the child every day. EI providers may include:

- Developmental interventionists
- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Speech therapists

## WHERE DO EI SERVICES HAPPEN?

EI happens during everyday routines, wherever children spend time:

- At home
- In childcare centers or home daycares
- With extended family
- In the community - library, store, park, etc.

## WHAT ARE TEACHER & PROVIDER ROLES?

EI is a team effort! Teachers are a key part of that team. When EI happens in childcare settings:

- Teachers act as a bridge between the provider and the family
- Providers wait for natural chances to talk or share ideas without interrupting class time
- Providers should not take the child out of the classroom for therapy, because the goal is for the child to receive support in their typical routines
- Teachers and providers build a trusting relationship by confirming each other's responsibilities and perspectives while partnering in the classroom

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS?

Teachers get:

- Extra help and encouragement from another caring adult
- Guidance to help children with disabilities or delays join in activities with friends
- Strategies to use with all children in the classroom

## HOW DO CHILDREN & FAMILIES BENEFIT?

It helps:

- Children get help from people they know and trust
- Families feel more confident their child is learning and developing
- Everyone become aware of the strengths and abilities of all children



## ANYONE CAN REFER A CHILD FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

If you have any concerns, talk to the family about EI, and with their permission, make a referral. Scan the QR code or visit

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/ecdb/fs/POElistingforWebsite.pdf>