The Basics of Early Intervention
How many babies are born each year in the United States?

~ 2.5 million
~ 4.2 million
~ 5.6 million
~ 7.3 million
In 2011, how many infants & toddlers received early intervention services?*

A. ~187,000  B. ~337,000
C. ~479,000  D. ~514,000

* According to Child Count (2011)
FEDERAL LEGISLATION
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This law begins:

“Congress finds that there is an urgent and substantial need...to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities, to minimize their potential for developmental delay, and to recognize the significant brain development that occurs during a child’s first 3 years of life...”
This module looks at:

8 … Steps in the early intervention process

7 … Acronyms to know

9 … Key terms defined

Produced by NICHCY, 2012
An infant or toddler may have a developmental delay or disability. Concerned, someone refers child to Part C.
Note to Parents!

You do not have to wait for an external source to identify & refer your infant or toddler to Part C

If you have concerns, contact the Part C program and request an evaluation

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The infant or toddler is evaluated to determine eligibility.
Before any screening or evaluation

<table>
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<th>Prior written notice</th>
<th>Parent consent</th>
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<td>![U.S. Mail image]</td>
<td>![Signature request image]</td>
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- Prior written notice
- Parent consent
Within **45 days** after the lead agency or EIS provider receives the referral

- screening (if applicable)
- initial evaluation
- initial assessments (of child & family)
- initial IFSP meeting

**must be completed**
Evaluation process looks at 5 areas of the child’s development

- cognitive
- physical (including vision and hearing)
- communication
- social or emotional
- adaptive
Your State defines the term *developmental delay* & spells out—

- what **procedures** will be used to measure children’s development in *each* of the 5 areas

- what **level of delay** in each area constitutes a *developmental delay*
Eligibility is determined by lead agency usually through the qualified personnel who conducted the evaluation.

**Yes**
- The child is eligible for Part C services
- initial IFSP meeting is scheduled

**No**
- The child is not eligible
- parents are given prior written notice*

* Which includes info on parents’ right to dispute the eligibility decision
Initial IFSP meeting is held, and the initial IFSP is written
### About the Individualized Family Service Plan

<table>
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<th>Every child who receives EIS under Part C must have an IFSP</th>
<th>The IFSP is a written plan with 2 general purposes</th>
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<td>- To set reasonable <strong>outcomes</strong> for the infant or toddler with a disability</td>
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<td>- To state the <strong>services</strong> that the EI program will provide for the infant or toddler &amp; family</td>
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<td>- Developed by the IFSP Team, <em>including parents</em></td>
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<td>- Must include specific content</td>
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Before the IFSP meeting

Prior written notice

Before implementing the IFSP

Parent consent
Early intervention services are provided
Early intervention services are provided in **natural environments***

Settings that are **natural or typical** for a same-aged child without a disability

May include the *home* or *community* settings

*to the maximum extent appropriate for the child and for the service*
Every six months the IFSP is reviewed & revised, as needed
The IFSP is reviewed annually.
A transition plan for the child’s exit from Part C is included in the IFSP at least 90 days before the child’s 3rd birthday.
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To what program might the child go next?

- Preschool services under Part B
- Elementary or preschool services under State’s extended Part C option
- Early education program
  - Head Start
  - Early Head Start
  - Child care program
- Other appropriate services
Only for children who are potentially eligible for preschool services under Part B of IDEA

No fewer than 90 days before the child’s 3\(^{rd}\) birthday

Lead agency must notify the SEA & child’s LEA

…that the child will soon reach the age of eligibility for Part B

By the child’s 3\(^{rd}\) birthday

LEA must:

- provide procedural safeguards notice to parents
- decide if evaluation for eligibility under Part B is needed
- conduct the evaluation, if needed

If child is eligible, an IEP must be developed, too
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Child exits early intervention

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Roundup Time!

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