

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:



... Steps in the
early intervention
process



... Acronyms
to know



... Key terms
defined

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Step

1

An infant or toddler may have a developmental delay or disability

Concerned, someone **refers** child to Part C



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Note to Parents!



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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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Step

2

The infant or toddler is evaluated to determine eligibility



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Before any screening or evaluation

Prior written notice



Parent consent





Day Timeline

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

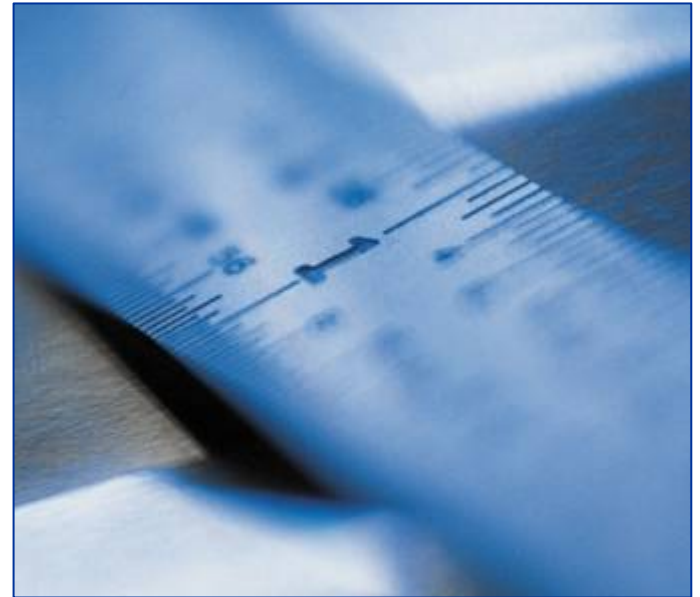
- cognitive
- physical (including vision and hearing)
- communication
- social or emotional
- adaptive



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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

Step 3

Initial **IFSP** meeting is held, and the initial IFSP is written



About the Individualized Family Service Plan

Every child who receives EIS under Part C **must have an IFSP**

The IFSP is a **written plan** with 2 general purposes

- To set reasonable **outcomes** for the infant or toddler with a disability
- To state the **services** that the EI program will provide for the infant or toddler & family

-
- Developed by the IFSP Team, *including parents*
 - Must include specific content

Before the IFSP meeting

Before implementing the IFSP

Prior written notice

Parent consent



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Step

4

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*

Step 5

Every six months the IFSP is reviewed & revised, as needed



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Step

6

The IFSP is
reviewed
annually



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Step

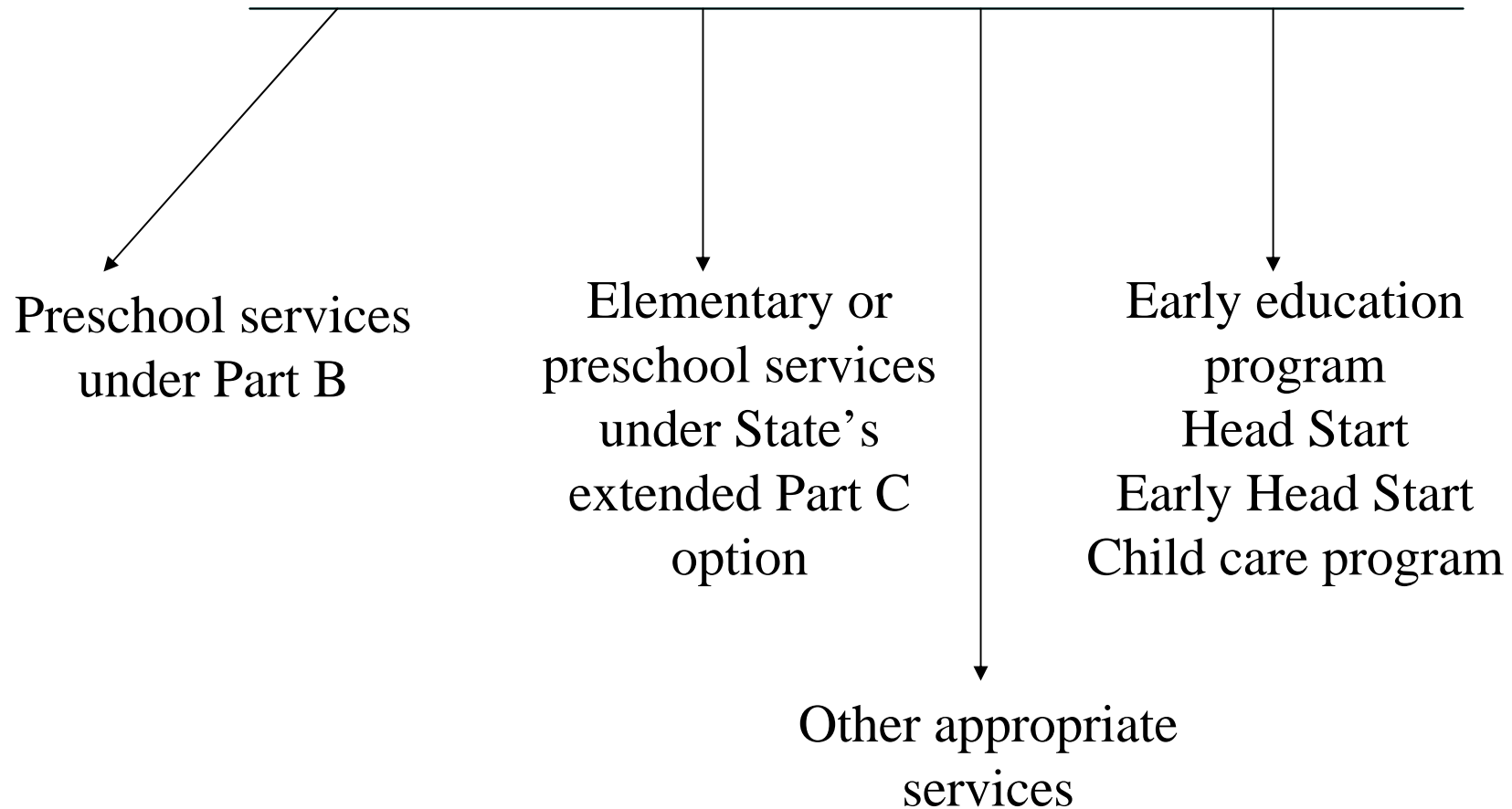
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A **transition plan** for the child's exit from Part C is included in the IFSP at least 90 days before the child's 3rd birthday



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To what program might the child go next?



*Only for children who are potentially eligible
for preschool services under Part B of IDEA*

No fewer than *90 days before*
the child's 3rd 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 3rd 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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Step 8

Child exits early
intervention



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Roundup Time!

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