Tips: On Referring Young Children for Infant Toddler Early Intervention

Early intervention (EI) is for infants and toddlers, from birth to three years of age, and their families. Note: Children in need of EI who are 33 months or older are to be referred directly to Elwyn SEEDS 215-222-8054.

What children should be referred for early intervention?

* Children who have a diagnosis which has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay and
* Children for whom you have concerns about their development

What happens once Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention receives a referral?
Within two days of receiving your referral for a child younger than 33 months, Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention (EI) will contact the family by phone to complete an Intake. If Philadelphia Infant Toddler EI is unable to reach the family to complete Intake, you may be called for additional information or assistance. Philadelphia Infant Toddler EI will make multiple attempts to contact the family over a period of 10 business days. If unsuccessful, we will inform you in writing that we closed the file although you may re-initiate referral at any time.

When we successfully complete the Intake, we assign the child and family to ChildLink, the Service Coordination entity.

Referral Outcomes- ChildLink will discuss possible next steps with the family (and may contact you, if you sent in this form):

* ChildLink will offer to have an EI service coordinator schedule a visit with the family, to discuss the child's needs and the family's concerns. The family may then decide to go forward with a play-based evaluation (MDE) for their child, or they may decide not to request an MDE at this time.
* If you did not send the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) summary scores with the referral, ChildLink will conduct an ASQ with the family's permission.
* The family may decide not to request Early Intervention and service coordination at this time.
* If this is a foster child, the child may be discharged pending receipt of initial consents for EI evaluation and services, or assignment of a surrogate parent. The child's foster care or social worker may need to facilitate this process.

Next Steps Following an MDE:

* If the MDE team (which always includes the family) finds the child eligible for EI services, the meeting will move directly into the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The service coordinator will follow up to make arrangements for services to begin within 2 weeks of developing the Plan.
* There is an additional option that offers monitoring for children in any of the following "at-risk categories":
  - low birth weight (1500 grams)
  - Confirmed elevated lead blood level
  - Neonatal intensive care unit graduate
  - Substantiated abuse/neglect
  - Born to a chemically dependent mother

Things to remember in making this referral

- Discuss the EI referral with the family. Share with them the next steps, time frames and possible EI referral outcomes that are described above.

- Inform Philadelphia Infant Toddler EI about other medical or developmental assessments (speech, PT, OT, EPSDT or other screenings, neurologicals, feeding evaluations, etc.) that are available.
  * Assessments that were done within the past six months can be incorporated into the EI multi-disciplinary evaluation (MDE) to avoid any duplication of evaluation efforts from multiple resources.
  * Specify the type(s) of reports available, on the front of this form (anywhere or in the blank line in the parent consent section). If they are your reports, please send with this referral or, with the family's permission, the ChildLink Service Coordinator may request a copy of reports from other sources. For others' reports, include source of report and a phone contact (parent, clinic, etc.) if known.

- You, or the family, may contact Infant Toddler EI with additional information or concerns and you may refer the child and family again to Infant Toddler EI at any time.

- Use this referral form. It helps us to know how to get in touch with you to let you know the outcome of this referral.