

Your Guide to Early Intervention Services at Kennedy-Donovan Center



KDC EARLY INTERVENTION LOCATIONS:

Attleboro	25 Forest St	Attleboro, MA 02703	PH: (508) 226-6035
Cape Cod and the Islands	30 Ansel Hallet Rd	West Yarmouth, MA 02673	PH: (508) 418-5540
Greater Plymouth	32 Crescent St	Kingston, MA 02364	PH: (508) 747-2012
New Bedford	389 County St	New Bedford, MA 02740	PH: (508) 997-1570
South Central	486 Worcester St	Southbridge, MA 01550	PH: (508) 765-0292

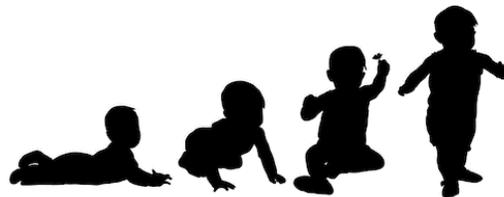
WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION?

Early Intervention is a parent coaching program that provides educational, therapeutic and support services to families with young children who have developmental delays or who may be at risk for delays. Early Intervention at **Kennedy-Donovan Center (KDC)** is a comprehensive, family-centered and community-based service offered at five different locations throughout Central and Southeastern Massachusetts. The program supports each family's efforts to enhance the development of its infant or toddler and partners with the family for a complete team approach to services.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All children, **from birth to age three**, are eligible for an evaluation to see if they may benefit from Early Intervention services. The infants and toddlers who are developmentally delayed, or "at risk" for delays due to medical, biological or family need, are eligible for Early Intervention services.



Early Intervention programs accept referrals for evaluations/assessments and provide integrated developmental services to eligible children and families. Early Intervention Programs do not accept referrals for discrete therapies, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy. To determine eligibility, the family will have an initial visit and developmental evaluation by a team of Early Intervention specialists. If eligible for Early Intervention, specialists partner with the family to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) prior to the delivery of services. Opportunities for consultation with EI staff from different clinical backgrounds are available to families to best meet the needs of their child(ren).



HOW IS ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED?

Eligibility for Early Intervention is determined through an evaluation by a multidisciplinary team exercising sound clinical judgment and using a developmental inventory tool approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH). [The Instrument approved by DPH for establishing eligibility is the Battelle Developmental Inventory -2 (“BDI-2”).]



The following factors are considered when determining eligibility:

- **The child has a diagnosed medical condition established by DPH** that puts them at risk for developmental delay. Depending on the diagnosis, children may be eligible for a year or up to their third birthday.
- A **delay** in one of the following areas using the ***Battelle Developmental Inventory, 2nd Edition (BDI-2)***: Adaptive, Motor, Personal/Social, Cognitive and Communication. The results of the BDI-2 are given in terms of developmental quotients. Average scores range between 85 and 115. In order to be eligible for Early Intervention, a child must have a score of 77 or below, which is a 1.5 standard deviation below the average. Children determined eligible on the BDI-2 are eligible for one year.
- **Child and family eligibility factors** as established by the DPH guidelines that may put the child at risk for developmental delay.
- If a child has questionable quality of developmental skills and functioning based on the informed clinical opinion of a multi-disciplinary team, the child can be found eligible based on the category of “**clinical judgment**” and can receive services up to 6 months. For services to continue after this period, eligibility must be redetermined based on the four categories described above.

HOW DO SERVICES WORK?



Early Intervention specialists, with expertise in child development and your child’s specific needs, work with you and your child in your home or other settings that are part of the child’s daily routine. Home based visits are done with both the child and the parent. During the home visit you will be joining in the activities and work directly with your child. Early Intervention is about working with you and your child, so that we may provide support and information that will assist your child in reaching their developmental goals.

HOW DO SERVICES WORK? (continued)

Service Coordination

Each family is assigned a main contact person, called a Service Coordinator, whose role is to provide direct services. They also coordinate and partner with the family in the development and implementation of the Individual Family Service Plan.

Family Support

Early Intervention's goal is to support, partner and enhance each family's efforts to accelerate the development of your child. Services are provided in your home or other natural settings. In addition to regular contact with your service coordinator, and other service providers, the program has available additional parent supports.

- Parent Support Groups
- Parent Resource Library
- Family Liaison
- Parent to Parent Contact
- Parent Educational Programs



Transition Planning

Early Intervention will work with your family to plan a smooth transition to other supports, services and/or socialization opportunities available to your child and family after your child is no longer eligible for Early Intervention.

We start transition planning when it is appropriate. Transition can take many forms and is unique to your child's and family's needs but can include information about over-three services in your area, to include childcare centers, parent/ child activities and information about continued services through your town's public school system.



Service Delivery in Response to COVID-19

Early Intervention services are available through TELEHEALTH. Given the uncertainty surrounding the virus and its spread, the Kennedy Donovan Center will be making careful choices to protect the health, well-being and safety of our program participants, staff and the entire community. *Services may be provided in-person (when safe) or via telehealth.*

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL SERVICES

Opportunities for family socialization are promoted throughout the communities we serve and we encourage families to participate as they feel able. Based on the need and service area, some centers offer specialized groups.

ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL SERVICES (continued)



Community Play Groups

Our playgroups provide small group experiences with activities designed to promote overall development. All of our playgroups are open to the community and support accessible and integrated play for children of different abilities and developmental needs.

Parent Groups/Support/Education

Parent groups provide an opportunity to meet with other parents or caregivers to share concerns or information. In addition to weekly parent groups, special training programs and educational workshops are offered throughout the year.

Specialty Services

Specialty Services are a collaboration of services with Early Intervention for conditions that require care that may not be appropriately, adequately, or specifically provided within an Early Intervention program.

Specialty Services conditions include:

- Blindness
- Visual Impairment
- Deafness
- Hearing Loss
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Complex care needs (may include a complex medical condition, multiple disabilities, and/or extensive medical health care needs)

Specialty Services Providers (SSP) are professionals who may work in Early Intervention programs, in affiliated specialty programs, or in private practices who have been specifically trained and/or credentialed to address the needs of children with specialty service conditions.

HOW ARE SERVICES PAID?

Early Intervention services are paid for by your health insurance or by the Department of Public Health, if you do not have insurance or do not want to use your insurance. You are encouraged to contact your health insurance provider to determine if your Early Intervention benefit effects other medical coverage. During the time you are receiving services from the Early Intervention Program you will be asked to confirm your current insurance plan on a monthly basis.

It is important that your KDC Early Intervention program be kept informed about any changes in your insurance coverage. Please notify the program or your service coordinator right away if you lose your insurance or have a change in insurance.

YOUR CHILD'S RECORD

It is our responsibility to ensure that all laws and regulations regarding the safe keeping of your child's record are kept. Information contained in the record will not be shared or released to anyone outside of the program without the written consent of the parent/guardian. As part of receiving early intervention services, some of the information you provide will be sent to the Department of Public Health. You may request a copy of the information sent to the Department from our program.

You have certain rights that are guaranteed to you under federal laws regarding the confidentiality of records, how the information is maintained and who has access to it. These include the right to:

- See the list of all Department of Public Health personnel who have access to the data system and find out what records are kept;
- Inspect and review any records that are collected and kept on your child at the program as well as at the Department of Public Health
- Ask the Early Intervention Program to take out or change information in the record that you feel is untrue, misleading or not related to your child's early intervention needs. If you disagree with information in the record, you may place a statement in the record of your views and/or request a hearing.
- Upon your written request, the program will transfer your child's record to any other person identified by you to receive the record.

Mandated Reporting

We will always obtain permission to release information unless it is a child safety issue. All Early Intervention Program staff are mandated reporters to the Massachusetts Department of Social Services. This means they are required by law to report suspicion of abuse or neglect of any child.

Access to Your Child's Record

It is the policy of the Kennedy Donovan Center to follow all rules and regulations regarding the confidentiality of your child's information. We will always obtain permission to release information, unless it is a child safety issue which requires our notification of the Department of Social Services as Mandated Reporters. Please let your service coordinator know if you need a copy of your record for any reason.

Destruction of Records Policy

It is the policy of the Kennedy-Donovan Center to destroy a child's record seven (7) years after the child is discharged from the program or seven (7) years from the child's third birthday, should your child remain in the program until that time. You have the right to receive any or all information contained in your child's record and may exercise this right until the records are destroyed.

**Services are provided weekdays Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Please contact your program below if you are unable to keep your appointment.**

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