



**Golden Gate Regional Center**

*Serving people with developmental disabilities since 1966*

# Early Start Intake and Eligibility

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# Early Start Eligibility

Title 14 CA Early Intervention Services Act Section 95014  
Infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months with:

- Developmental delay in one or more of the following five areas:
  - Cognitive development;
  - Physical and motor development, including vision and hearing;
  - Communication development;
  - Social or emotional development;
  - Adaptive development.

“A significant difference is defined as a 33-percent delay in one or more developmental areas.”

# Early Start Eligibility

- Established risk conditions of known etiology or conditions with established harmful developmental consequences, with a high probability of leading to developmental delay if the delay is not evident at the time of diagnosis.
- High risk of having substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors.

# Early Start Eligibility

CA Title 17 Section 52022 – Biomedical risk factors (2 or more):

- Prematurity of less than 32 weeks gestation and/or low birth weight of less than 1500 grams;
- Assisted ventilation for 48 hours or longer during the first 28 days of life;
- Small for gestational age: below the third percentile on the National Center for Health Statistics growth charts;
- Asphyxia neonatorum associated with a five minute Apgar score of 0 to 5;
- Severe and persistent metabolic abnormality, including but not limited to hypoglycemia, acidemia, and hyperbilirubinemia in excess of the usual exchange transfusion level;
- Neonatal seizures or nonfebrile seizures during the first three years of life;
- Central nervous system lesion or abnormality;

# Early Start Eligibility

- Central nervous system infection;
- Biomedical insult including, but not limited to, injury, accident, or illness which may seriously or permanently affect developmental outcome;
- Multiple congenital anomalies or genetic disorders which may affect developmental outcome;
- Prenatal exposure to known teratogens;
- Prenatal substance exposure, positive infant neonatal toxicology screen, or symptomatic neonatal toxicity or withdrawal;
- Clinical significant failure to thrive, including, but not limited to, weight persistently below the third percentile for age on standard growth charts or less than 85% of the ideal weight for age and/or acute weight loss or failure to gain weight with the loss of two or more major percentiles on the growth curve;
- Persistent hypotonia or hypertonia, beyond that otherwise associated with a known diagnostic condition.

OR

- High risk for a developmental disability also exists when a multidisciplinary team determines that the parent of the infant or toddler is a person with a developmental disability.

# Early Start and Local Educational Agencies (LEA)

- The State Department of Education and local educational agencies shall be responsible for the provision of appropriate early intervention services for infants with solely a visual, hearing, or severe orthopedic impairment, who meet the criteria set forth in the Education Code and California Code of Regulations and who are not eligible for services under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.

# What Happens After a Referral to Early Start?

Within 45-days, the Regional Center or LEA shall:

- Assign a service coordinator to assist the family through evaluation and assessment procedures;
- Obtain parental consent for evaluation & assessment;
- Schedule and complete evaluation and assessment related to the child's development;
- If a child is eligible for early intervention services, an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed that addresses the needs of the child, parental priorities and concerns, early intervention services, and expected developmental outcomes.