

Intake: Starting Your Regional Center Journey in Early Start



What is Early Start?

Early Start is a program for infants and toddlers younger than three and their families.

What is intake?

Intake is the way regional centers determine who is eligible to receive regional center services.

Who is eligible for Early Start services?

A child must have at least one of the following:

- 1) Delays (for instance, in speaking or types movement);
- 2) A known risk condition (like Down Syndrome); OR
- 3) High risk of having a developmental disability (for example, an infant born earlier than 32 weeks who needs a machine to help them breathe).



What Should I Expect?



Referral

1

A doctor, daycare worker, parent, or someone else concerned about a child makes a referral to the regional center.

Appointment

2

An intake appointment is scheduled with the family to talk about the concerns.

Evaluation

3

Professionals evaluate developing language, thinking, walking, and daily living skills.

IFSP

4

If found eligible, the service coordinator helps develop a plan called the "Individual Family Service Plan" (IFSP) to identify services needed. The IFSP is written within 45 days of date of referral.

If not found eligible, the family receives information about how to appeal the decision and information about other places that may be able to help the family.

