Virginia Families of Young Children

How to Get Help When Concerned about Your Child's Development - Birth to 5 years



I have concerns about my child's development. What should I do?

Children develop at their own pace; however, most children reach <u>developmental milestones</u> at or about the same age.

If you have concerns about how your child plays, learns, speaks, acts, or moves, it's important to:

- 1. Share your concerns with the child's doctor or teacher.
- 2. Make a referral to have your child evaluated at no cost for **Early Intervention** or **Early Childhood Special Education** services.

If you see a delay, don't delay!

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention (EI) helps children **under the age of 3** who aren't developing as expected or have a medical condition that can cause delays, learn new skills and improve development. *Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia (ITC)* provides early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers. Examples of early intervention are speech therapy to help your child communicate and physical therapy to help your child's body movements.

To make a referral for Early Intervention, call 1-800-234-1448 or make an online referral.



What is Early Childhood Special Education?

Early Childhood Special
Education (ECSE) is for children
aged 2 (whose birthday falls on
or before September 30)
through age 5 with a disability in
need of services to support
development and school readiness.
ECSE services are provided through
your local school division.
Examples of services include speech
therapy to help the child
communicate or instruction to help
the child become independent.

To make a referral, you can call, email, or stop by your neighborhood school or contact the <u>Special</u> <u>Education Director</u> for the school division. If you need assistance with identifying an appropriate contact in your local school division, contact VDOE's <u>Parent Ombudsman for</u> <u>Special Education</u> by calling 1-800-422-2083.

Where can I learn more about the process?

- Parent Educational AdvocacyTraining Center (PEATC) 1-800-869-6782,
 Partners@peatc.org
- <u>Center for Family Involvement at VCU</u>, 1-877-567-1122, <u>CFI Help Desk</u>
- Infant & Toddler Connection
- VDOE Early Childhood Care and Education
- Videos about the Special Education Evaluation Process



