Referral to Early Intervention Services
Information for Parents

After a child protection services assessment is completed and it has been Confirmed that a child meets the definition of an abused or neglected child, federal law requires the child protection worker to refer any child under the age of three years for a developmental screening. This means that the child protection worker will send your name, address, and phone number to a representative of Early Intervention Services, who will contact you about scheduling an evaluation/screening of your child's strengths and needs. This service is voluntary and available at no cost to all families.

If you continue with the evaluation, a team of professionals will test your child's abilities: to learn (cognitive development), to move, see and hear (physical/motor development), to communicate and understand others (speech, language and communication development), to respond to others and interact with them (social and emotional development), and to eat and take care of him/herself appropriately for his/her age (adaptive behavior and self-help development). Although you may not have concerns in all these areas, an evaluation will help you and your team identify your child's strengths and needs.

After the evaluation has been completed, the team of professionals will want to meet with you to decide whether your child qualifies for additional Early Intervention services to help him/her grow and learn. These services are voluntary and available at no cost to all families. Early Intervention staff will work together with you, so you can help your child grow and learn and will visit in your home or where your child receives childcare.

Children who do not meet the requirements for Early Intervention services may still benefit from other supports. The eligibility team will make recommendations regarding other services that may be appropriate.

Child protection services will be notified whether you have chosen to complete an evaluation or accept additional services for your child.