

Principles of Early Intervention (EI)

- EI supports families to help their children develop.
- EI takes place at home and in the community, with the family.
- Families and professionals work together to create and monitor goals.
- Goals are family-centered, written with the child and family's routine in mind.
- EI plans focus on helping children become more social, explore their surroundings, and become more independent.
- Families use home activity programs to work with their child throughout the week.
- Goals and strategies are monitored to be sure they are effective.
- Providers working with families are kept to high standards.



1-800-852-7157

9 TEIS District Offices



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| 1 First District
Johnson City, Tennessee
Phone 423-434-4401 Fax 423-434-4407 | 4 Upper Cumberland District
Cookeville, Tennessee
Phone 931-528-1623 Fax 931-528-1648 | 7 Northwest District
Martin, Tennessee
Phone 731-881-7114 Fax 731-881-7206 |
| 2 East District
Knoxville, Tennessee
Phone 865-579-3099 Fax 865-579-5033 | 5 Greater Nashville District
Nashville, Tennessee
Phone 615-837-6868 Fax 615-832-0384 | 8 Southwest District
Jackson, Tennessee
Phone 731-512-1550 Fax 731-512-1524 |
| 3 Southeast District
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Phone 423-624-6344 Fax 423-697-4920 | 6 South Central District
Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Phone 615-904-3636 Fax 615-904-3648 | 9 Memphis Delta District
Memphis, Tennessee
Phone 901-937-6738 Fax 901-372-2866 |

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Tennessee's Early Intervention System
Growing Together... Little by Little

Questions & Answers

A voluntary educational program for families with children ages birth through two years of age with disabilities or developmental delays.

Early Intervention is crucial for providing a good education to children with special needs.



1-800-852-7157
www.TN.Gov/education/teis

Questions & Answers

Q: What does Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS) do?

A: TEIS links families with supports and services to help them work with their child who has a disability or developmental delay.

Q: Who should call TEIS?

A: Families, doctors, or other people who are worried about a child's development can call TEIS.

Q: What does the term "developmental delay" mean?

A: A child may have a developmental delay if he or she is far behind other children their age in one or more of the five major skill areas:

- 1) **motor** (crawling, walking, using their hands to play),
- 2) **communication** (babbling, indicating wants and needs, talking),
- 3) **cognitive** (thinking skills including making choices and solving problems),
- 4) **social** (playing near or with other children or adults), and/or
- 5) **adaptive** (taking care of ones needs).

Q: Once TEIS is called, what is the next step?

A: The local TEIS office will ask a service coordinator to call and talk with the family and set up a visit.

Q: How do I know if my child has a developmental delay?

A: Talking with your child's doctor during regular check-ups is helpful as well as with TEIS.



Q: Does every state have an early intervention system?

A: Yes, every state has a Part C program (birth through two years of age) under the Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Each state decides its own eligibility rules.

Q: How is a child eligible for TEIS in Tennessee?

A: Children diagnosed with certain disabilities or children whose test results show that they have a 25% delay in two developmental areas (motor, communication, etc.) or a 40% delay in one area may be eligible for TEIS. Information from the child's doctor as well as the results of a developmental test will determine if a child meets the eligibility criteria in Tennessee. Once eligible, the family may decide to participate in TEIS and an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team meeting.



Q: My child's doctor has called TEIS for a speech test and speech therapy. Will TEIS set up the test and sign my child up for therapy?

A: Every child must first be determined eligible for TEIS before any decisions are made, including the need for therapy. If your child is not eligible for TEIS, your service coordinator and doctor can talk about other options for services, such as using your child's health plan.

Q: Is TEIS free?

A: It is the right of every infant and toddler to receive an eligibility evaluation and service coordination at

no cost. When a service needs to be paid for, TEIS must, by law, be the payor of last resort. This means that TEIS must use the child's insurance or health coverage to pay for services on the IFSP.

Q: I understand TEIS stops when my child turns 3 years old. What happens next?

A: The TEIS service coordinator will help prepare the family by planning a transition meeting up to 9 months before a child's 3rd birthday. The purpose of this meeting is to help the family plan for the future.

Q: What do families gain from their involvement in early intervention?

A: Families have reported that TEIS and their IFSP team have helped them understand their child's need(s) and provided ideas of how to work with their child daily.



Q: What do children gain from their involvement in early intervention?

A: Children benefit when their families have support (as determined by the IFSP team) and understand how to help them develop every day. Many children who were involved with early intervention are able to start kindergarten with minimal or no special education supports.

Please call Tennessee's Early Intervention System if you have any questions or would like to make a referral.

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<http://www.TN.Gov/education/teis>