



Special Education Services and Supports



What is Preschool Early Intervention?

Preschool Early Intervention in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children ages 3 to 5 who have developmental delays. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, caregivers, service providers, and others significantly involved with your child.

Services help address your concerns about your child's development and enhance your family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of your child in the settings where children would be if they did not have a disability. Early Intervention practitioners work collaboratively with families, caregivers, and educators to help children grow and learn and to prevent the need for more and costly intervention in the future.

BCIU Early Intervention is a public special education service provided to children who are experiencing a delay in development. If a child is eligible, he or she will receive appropriate educational services at no cost, through federal and state funds.

For more information visit us online:
www.berksiu.org/ei

or call:
610-987-8544
610-987-8621 (Spanish)

BCIU Berks County
Intermediate Unit
an educational service agency

helping schools excel | helping children learn

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PRESCHOOL EARLY INTERVENTION

BCIU Early Intervention
A program of the
an educational service agency Berks County Intermediate Unit

Early Intervention Special Education Services

What are Preschool Early Intervention Services and Supports?

Preschool Early Intervention (EI) is preschool special education provided by the public school system at no cost to families. EI staff work together with parents and caregivers to meet the unique needs of a child. EI is not a preschool program. EI helps children with disabilities participate in the preschool programs they would attend if they didn't have disabilities. Services may include: learning about child development, ways to help the child grow and learn, adjustments to curriculum and instruction, family supports, and developmental therapies. Services may happen in the home, school, or community. EI also helps link families to other services.

Getting Started: Screening

Once a referral is made, the family participates in screening activities designed to gather information about the family's concerns and your child's development in the following skill areas: cognitive and learning, large and small motor, self-help, social, and speech and language. Families complete questionnaires, surveys, and checklists that provide information about your child's development. This information is used to determine if further evaluation is necessary.

Evaluation

A comprehensive evaluation is completed to determine eligibility for Preschool Early Intervention (EI). Children are eligible if they have a developmental delay and/or disability and need specially designed instruction to learn. The evaluation identifies the strengths and needs of the child and family. That information helps the EI team plan meaningful individualized services. Because you know your child so well, parent participation in the evaluation is very important. Parent written permission is needed before an evaluation can begin.



IEP-Individualized Education Program

If the evaluation determines your child is eligible, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed. The IEP planning team includes EI staff, yourself, family members, friends, teachers, therapists, physicians, and other professionals you want as team members. This is your opportunity to talk about what you would like to achieve with your child now and in the future. By sharing information about your daily routines, preferred activities and the activities that are challenging, the team will be able to target supports and services to meet your family's and child's needs in a way that makes sense for your child and family. Services support the child's participation in the typical preschool programs and routines and the routines of family and community life.



We feel that because of the joint efforts of the BCIU, teachers, therapists, and us all working together, a difference has been made in our daughter's life. She is better off for having these Early Intervention services.



the Wentzel family