

Indiana First Steps

Early Intervention Services



The Indiana First Steps Program is Indiana's response to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The goals of this program are to enhance development of infant and toddlers with disabilities, reduce the need for special education, enhance families' capacities to meet their child's special needs and increase identification of children at risk for developmental delays.

First Steps is a family centered, community based, coordinated system, which provides early intervention services to children birth to three years of age, who have developmental delays or are developmentally at risk. The Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS), Bureau of Child Development Services (BCDS) of the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has been the lead agency since 1992.

Eligibility - Children from birth to three years who:

Are developmentally delayed

25% in one area of development or 20% in two or more areas of development (cognitive, physical, communication, social/emotional & adaptive)

Have a high probability of delay based on:

Chromosomal abnormalities

Neurological disorders

Congenital malformations

Sensory impairments, including vision and hearing

Severe toxic exposures, including prenatal

Low birth weight <1500 grams

Neurological abnormalities in the newborn period

Referrals - A referral to First Steps can be made by anyone (parents, healthcare provider, social service agency) who suspects a child may need extra support to reach his/her full potential. Contact the System Point of Entry (SPOE) in Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, or Tipton counties at 317-257-BABY (2229).

An Intake Coordinator will contact the family to identify if they are interested (the program is voluntary) and which assessments and evaluations are wanted/needed. The Intake Coordinator helps arrange all evaluation appointments and secures any needed medical records. Once the evaluations have been completed, eligibility, based on state criteria, is determined. If the child is eligible, the Intake Coordinator will schedule an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting. If the child is not eligible, the Intake Coordinator will provide the family information on growth and development and offer to recontact the family in three to six months.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) - A multidisciplinary team, including the child's family (foster parent or surrogate parent), determines the needs of the child and the concerns of the family, and then designs the IFSP to meet those needs. The primary medical care provider reviews and signs the IFSP. The IFSP serves as the child's plan of care. It is reviewed every six months and reevaluated every year.

Service Coordination - After the IFSP has been developed, the family is assigned an ongoing Service Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating services with all of the various people and agencies who will provide services for the eligible child and family, and minimizes the "red tape", thereby saving family time, energy and needless expense. The Service Coordinator meets with the family at least every three months and maintains contact by phone as needed.

Transition To Preschool Special Education - Before a child turns three, a transition plan must be developed to transition the child into preschool special education or to ensure other needed services are in place after the child turns three years of age.

6923 Hillside Court
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250
Phone: 317-257-2229

Toll Free: 1-866-212-1434
Fax: 317-205-2592
www.cibaby.com

Services Available - The following services can be provided to the child/family.

Occupational Therapy (OT)
Speech Language Therapy (SLP)
Nutrition Services
Social Work Services
Vision Services
Diagnostic Medical Services
Assistive Technology

Physical Therapy (PT)
Audiology
Developmental Therapy (Special Instruction)
Family Education
Nursing Services (not ongoing homecare services)
Psychological Services
Transportation to First Steps' services

Contact Information:

Indiana First Steps Program
Bureau of Child Development Services
402 W. Washington St W-386
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2773
1-800-441-7837
www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4964.htm

Central Indiana First Steps
SPOE - Debbi Davis LPCC - Stacy Holmes
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