

Does Your Child (age birth-three) Have Special Needs?

Early Intervention is a system of services designed to support families with children who have, or are at risk for, disabilities. Early intervention professionals work in partnership with parents to help children develop their knowledge and skills to reach their potential.

Examples of Early Intervention Services are:

Assistive Technology	Medical Services
Hearing Devices	Occupational Therapy
Family Counseling	Physical Therapy
Nursing Services	Respite Services
Parenting Classes	Speech/Language

**If your child is
birth – 3 years
old**

Call: Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA)

WESTERN NC (Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Swain, Transylvania Counties)----- **828-251-6091**
Polk-----**704-450-5440**

You know your child best, if you believe your child has a developmental delay or disability, contact your CDSA to make a referral.

CDSAs assure that children from birth - 3 years of age receive service mandated under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). They are the point of referral for the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program (ITP).

Once your child is proven eligible, you may choose to enroll in the ITP. If you decide to enroll in the ITP, remember that you are your child's first and best teacher and advocate. Be an active participant in the program to help guide important decisions about your child and the supports and services he or she may need.

**If your child is
birth – 5 years
old**

Call: Care Management for At-Risk Children (CMARC)

Henderson Co. Health Department -----	828-692-4223
Buncombe Co. Health Department -----	828-250-5096
Polk: Blue Ridge Community Health Services	828-894-2222

If your child qualifies, CMARC will at no charge:

- Help your family identify your strengths and concerns
- Connect you with other services and resources
- Identify ways to strengthen the parent-child relationship
- Provide information, support and ongoing education

**Need Further
Assistance**

The [North Carolina Infant Toddler Parent Handbook](#) is a helpful guide to understanding early intervention services in North Carolina.

FIRST Resource Center-----**828-277-1315**

Family Support Network of WNC-----**828-213-0033**

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC)----- **1-800-962-6817**

Download the CDC's free Milestone Tracker app at [cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker](https://www.cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker)

NOTES TO TAKE TO THE INDIVIDUAL FAMILY SERVICES PLAN (IFSP)

This is a form to help you prepare for the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting. The IFSP is the plan for your child and family's support plan and services to be provided.

What are your main concerns about your child?

What are your child's strengths?

In order to put together a plan that is tailored to your child, rather than your child's diagnosis, please describe your child.

What is your child's diagnosis or qualifying condition?

Who diagnosed your child?

Who would you like to be at your IFSP?

What support does your family need? What services does your child need?

IFSP ISSUES / RESOLUTION LOG

[illegible]

NOTES / ISSUES FOR REVIEW AT THE NEXT IFSP MEETING

Date:

Notes:

Transition to the Preschool Plan

The information below is helpful in planning your child's "transition" to preschool services 6 months prior to his/her third birthday. The process starts at 2 years, months most of the time.

This plan is specific to children who are receiving early intervention services through the CDSA.

⇒ **8-9 Months before your child turns 3 years old:**

- Your Service Coordinator will schedule a time to meet with you, starting the Transition process.
- Present at this meeting will be:
 - **Who:**
 - Parent and anyone you would like to invite
 - Children's Developmental Services Agency Service Coordinator
 - **What:**
 - Discuss what Transition means.
 - Review IFSP goals if needed.
 - With your help add a transition goal to the Individual Family Service Plan.
 - Get your permission to contact the Local Education Agency (LEA) to make a referral and talk.
 - Talk to the Preschool Program. You may also complete a Notification/Referral form if needed.

⇒ **5-6 Months before your child turns 3 years old:** with your permission

- The Children's Developmental Services Agency Service Coordinator will send the Notification and Referral form to Preschool Coordinator providing information about your child.
- The Children's Developmental Services Agency Service Coordinator will set up a Transition Planning Conference where you will meet the Preschool Coordinator and discuss the transition plan.
- Evaluations will be scheduled to be completed closer to your child's 3rd birthday.

⇒ **2-3 Months before your child turns 3 years old**

- The Preschool Coordinator will schedule a referral meeting where you will have the choice of what information and assessments will be reviewed by the school.
- A plan will be developed regarding specific tasks needed, who will be responsible to do them and when the tasks will be completed.

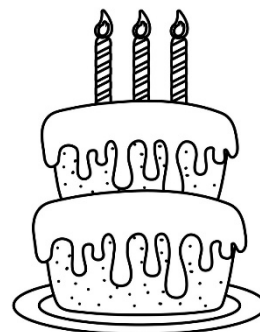
- The school will complete any assessments needed to help determine eligibility for services.
- Evaluations will be done during this time, such as: Speech, Motor, Assistive Technology, Psychological, Adaptive, Educational, etc.

⇒ **1-2 weeks before your child turns 3:**

- The Individual Education Plan meeting will be held to determine if your child is eligible for services with the school district.
 - **Who**
 - Parent Child Service Coordinator
 - Preschool Coordinator (Local Education Agency)
 - Regular Education Teacher
 - Special Education Teacher
 - Anyone you feel can support you in this meeting such as family, friends, etc.
 - You may also want to invite your CDSA Service Coordinator and therapists that are working with your child. You can choose to have a Care Managers through Care Management for At-Risk Children to follow your child's progress until five years of age. If so, it would be important to invite them to the IEP meeting.
 - **Why:** The Individual Education Plan is the map for your child's teachers and therapists who will be serving your child in the preschool program.

⇒ **Happy Third Birthday!**

If your child is found to be eligible for services, he/she will now receive services through your local Preschool program. The Individual Education Plan (IEP) is now active. Remember that the IEP can be changed if it is not working for your child! Make a note of who to call if you have questions.



VISION FOR THE FUTURE FORM

Most parents don't know this is a question in their child's IEP. It is such an important one! Bring a prepared statement to have put in the IEP. Think about short-term goals (current school year) and long-term goals (school career) when answering this question.

An example vision statement might be: *Our vision for John is that he'll be able to apply his caring heart and his desire to learn and socialize in an environment that will support his social and academic needs. We would like him to come to understand himself, and, in time, to be able to successfully manage his needs independently so that his gifts may shine. We would like to see him make continued improvement with his social skills, in addition to his academic skills, so he can enjoy lasting friendships throughout his school years and his life.*

Date:

Ideas for the future of my child (social skills, recreational skills, learning their dreams, your dreams, etc.):

Resources to make my child's dreams come true:

MY CHILD'S IFSP

(Insert a copy of your child's current IFSP)