Did You Know?

• ECI serves children from birth to 36 months
• ECI programs cover all areas of the state
• Evaluations to determine ECI eligibility are at no cost to the family
• Translation and interpreter services are available
• ECI provides services to families at all income levels
• Families receiving services from other providers/ agencies may still be eligible for ECI services

Who provides ECI services?

Licensed or credentialed professional staff including:
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Psychologists
- Registered Nurses and Dietitians
- Social Workers and Counselors
- Certified Early Intervention Specialists (EIS) college graduates who complete a state approved training program

Who is eligible for ECI services?

ECI determines eligibility for infants and toddlers living in Texas based on:

Developmental delay
Children with a developmental delay that affects functioning in one or more areas of development, including cognitive, communication, motor, social-emotional, and adaptive/self-help.

Medically diagnosed condition
Children with a medically diagnosed condition with a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay. (Medical diagnoses list located on back of brochure.)

Auditory or visual impairment
Children who have an auditory or visual impairment as defined by the Texas Education Agency. (Contact your local ECI program for more information.)

What is the approach to ECI services?

ECI’s approach:
- Specializes in infants and toddlers
- Provides services individualized to the needs of each child and family
- Involves families in services that incorporate therapeutic intervention strategies in their child’s daily routines
- Utilizes an interdisciplinary team of licensed or credentialed professionals
- Includes measurable outcomes
- Provides services in the home and community settings
- Provides case management for all families

How are ECI services determined?

After referral, an interdisciplinary team conducts a comprehensive evaluation to determine eligibility. If the child is eligible for services, the team, along with the parents, develops an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). In developing the IFSP, all pertinent medical information is considered. With written parental consent, the IFSP can be shared with the physician.

How are ECI services funded?

ECI receives federal, state, and local funds, as well as, Medicaid, CHIP, private insurance, and family fees. The following services are provided at no cost to families regardless of income. However, families with insurance will be asked for permission to bill for reimbursement.
- Evaluation and/or assessment
- IFSP development
- Case management
- Translation and interpreter services
- Services for children eligible due to auditory or visual impairments
- Services for children in foster care

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Family Cost Share

Families with children enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, or whose income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, do not pay for any ECI services. Other families may pay a cost share determined by a sliding fee scale based on family size and adjusted income after allowable deductions. No family will be denied services due to an inability to pay. For more information or to view the sliding fee scale, visit the DARS website at: www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/familycostshare.shtml.

How do you make a referral?

- Call or fax information about your concerns for a child to your local ECI program.
- Give the contact information to the family and recommend that they call the ECI program.

Results of a referral can only be provided to referral sources with written parental consent.

How do you find a program in your area?

- Call the DARS Inquiries Line at 1-800-628-5115, or visit the DARS/ECI website search page at: www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/searchprogram.asp

How can you help a family learn about ECI?

ECI Videos

ECI has developed two short videos to help people better understand ECI’s service model.

“Texas ECI: Family to Family”
This short (10 minute) video offers a special perspective for families who have been or who may be referred to ECI and who would like to learn more about what to expect from ECI. Four families talk openly about their ECI experience. Visit www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/videos/index.shtml

“About Texas ECI”
This short (8 minute) informational video offers an overview of ECI’s unique model of services. Visit www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis/videos/index.shtml

If a family wants to see a video but does not have access to the internet, have them contact their local ECI program.