



*I tried to teach  
my child with books  
He gave me only puzzled looks  
I tried to teach  
my child with words  
They passed him by  
often unheard  
Despairingly I turned aside  
“How shall I teach this child?”*

*I cried  
Into my hand he put the key  
“Come,” he said  
“Play with me”*

*Author Unknown*



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**EARLY INTERVENTION**

### Early Intervention

All children are unique with their individual strengths and talents. The presence of a developmental delay or special need is not the defining characteristic of any child.

*Babies are born learning.*



**Tel: 970-241-5396**

# THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Early Intervention Colorado is the encompassing system for early intervention services in Colorado. Early Intervention Colorado includes the Federal Part C program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. This is often referred to by its nickname "IDEIA". The purpose of Part C is to support parents and families of children birth to 3 years of age in meeting the developmental needs of their infants and toddlers.

In Colorado, this program is administered by the Office of Early Childhood Division of Community and Family Support (under the Colorado Department of Human Services) which contracts with local agencies known as Community Centered Boards (CCB's) statewide. STRIVE (formerly known as Mesa Developmental Services) is the CCB in Mesa County that provides Part C early intervention services to infants, toddlers and their families.

The program provides EI services including occupational, speech, and physical therapy, as well as developmental intervention and support services to help infants and toddlers develop and learn. Service coordination is also provided to help the family in accessing services and supports and to inform them of their legal rights during the process.



## ELIGIBILITY:

Children are eligible for services if they have either a significant delay (25% or more) in one or more areas of development or have been diagnosed with an established condition that will likely result in a significant delay in development. Services are accessed through Child Find (970-241-5403) where a screening may be done to determine the need for further assessment. A multidisciplinary evaluation is done to determine eligibility. Child Find evaluations are provided by School District 51 in collaboration with Strive.



## INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP):

- \* Developed after eligibility is determined and is part of the evaluation process
- \* Based on information from the evaluation and from the concerns, resources, and priorities identified by the family
- \* Lists the services that will assist parents and caregivers to help their child during activities that are part of a family's regular routines and that will help the child develop and learn
- \* Desired outcomes are listed along with strategies as to how those outcomes are going to be met.
- \* IFSP's are reviewed at least every 6 months and updated annually. Reviews can occur more frequently if needed.
- \* A transition plan is developed prior to the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The plan outlines the steps needed for services to continue in another setting (such as a school district preschool program or other agencies) if the child is still eligible. If the child no longer needs services, the transition plan may address other resources available in the community. Early Intervention (Part C) services end on the day before the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

## PROGRAM SERVICES:

- > Designed around the needs, concerns and priorities of the child and family
- > Provided in natural learning environments (family home, parks, childcare settings)
- > May include any of the following: developmental intervention; speech, occupational or physical therapy; and other areas of expertise



- > Play based intervention focuses on providing the parent with strategies and activities within the context of daily routines that are meaningful to the child and family.
- > Parents and caregivers are an integral part of the early intervention team.

- > Includes service coordination/case management for every child and family
- > The service coordinator helps the family identify strengths and needs and assists in finding available resources. Also makes sure that the rights of the child and family are understood and protected.

## FUNDING:

- + Services are provided at no cost to the family
- + A variety of funding sources may be utilized to pay for services including public insurance such as Medicaid, private insurance, state or federal funds.
- + Options for funding and an explanation of the funding process will be provided by the service coordinator/case manager
- + Parents may contribute personal funding toward their children's services.

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