

Early Childhood Special Education

Early Intervention
Provider
Fact Sheets



What is Early Childhood Special Education in Early Intervention?

An Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) provider in early intervention (EI) works with children and their families in their natural environment (home, school, and community) to support success in daily activities and all areas of childhood development (physical, social emotional, adaptive, cognition and language). ECSE providers are often characterized as generalists in all areas of development, and they can support families in many areas of need, including but not limited to, developmental delays and diagnoses, medical complexities, emotional regulation, and navigation of the school system as their child ages out of EI services.

How would an early childhood special education provider support your family?

Early Childhood Milestones

- Motor milestones (sitting, crawling, walking, fine motor)
- Language (babbling, words, phrases)

Play Skills

- Play milestones
- Access environments (home/play)
- Social interactions (family/peers)

Challenging Behaviors

- Emotional regulation
- Understanding of expectations

Independence with Daily Routines

- Morning (waking-up)
- Day-to-day (home or daycare)
- Mealtime (before and during)
- Evening (bedtime)
- Transitions

Daily Activities

- Sleep
- Dressing
- Picky eating
- Grooming (combing hair and brushing teeth)
- Bathing
- Toileting (potty training and diapering)

When should you seek out an early childhood special education provider?

If you have concerns about any of the areas listed above, talk with your pediatrician, or seek out an evaluation through **EI CO** (the website is listed below). Anyone can place a referral, even you! If your child is found eligible for EI services following an evaluation, you and your family's team will identify your child's greatest area of need and the most applicable provider will be paired with your family.

What is the Primary Service Provider Model?

The approach of choosing the most applicable provider for the identified needs is called the Primary Service Provider Model. EI practitioners support children in all areas of child development, and offer wide varieties of expertise. In many cases, each provider is supported by a team of additional disciplines to support well-rounded care for each family. If you and your child are already receiving EI services, and your child needs additional support in an area that your current provider feels would be better addressed by an early childhood special education provider, you can reach out to schedule a meeting with your service coordinator to discuss the possibility of adding an ECSE to your team. Providers may be added to the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), based on available resources and necessary approval.

What should you plan to discuss with your ECSE provider?

The goal of working with an early childhood special education provider is to support your child and your family in your everyday life. Share the times of day that are difficult for you and your child. Share the goals you have for your child and your family, and things that you wish would be easier. Your ECSE provider may ask what you are currently trying, and they will provide suggestions based on your child and your family goals.

Helpful Resources

[EI Colorado Website](#)



[ECSE in Colorado](#)



[JFK Partners ENRICH Fact Sheets](#)

