

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY LAW.

The Pennsylvania Early Intervention Services System Act—212 provides for Early Intervention services to eligible infants, toddlers and preschoolers from birth to entry to school age. The philosophy and intent of this law is that all services are Family Centered; services are to be for the benefit of the family and consider the unique strengths of children with special needs in the context of their family.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN PLANNING FOR SERVICES IN SCHUYLKILL COUNTY?

The Schuylkill County Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) is a community based organization made up of parents and professionals in the field of early intervention (birth—5). This council is mandated by federal and state law to provide assistance in planning and implementing early intervention systems at the local level.

The LICC meets four times a year. Parents, community members and interested professionals are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

If you would like more information about the SICC please call the Coordinator of Early Intervention Services at (570) 621-2700.

Early Intervention Services for infants and toddlers are funded by the PA Department of Public Welfare through its county Mental Health/Mental Retardation Offices (MH/MR). Locally, the MH/MR office contracts with Service Access & Management, Inc. to serve all eligible infants and toddlers and their families through contracts with local agencies.

After age 3, Early Intervention services are provided by the Department of Education. Locally, eligible young children are served through the Schuylkill County Intermediate Unit. Please call (570) 544-9131 to make a referral.

For information regarding Early Intervention services (birth—three years) in Schuylkill County call or write:

Schuylkill Early Intervention Program
Service Access & Management, Inc.
1 South 2nd Street
Pottsville, PA 17901
Telephone: (570) 621-2700
Toll Free: 1-877-216-5035
Visit our Web Site: www.sam-inc.org

FACTS ABOUT EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM



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*CARF has accredited SAM Inc.'s
Case Management and Crisis
Intervention Services*

EARLY INTERVENTION

WHAT IS IT?

Early Intervention refers to a process identifying a very young child who is at risk of or who has a disability or delay affecting his/her typical development.

Delays could exist in a child's physical development, speech/language, cognitive, emotional or social development, or self-help skills.

Early Intervention services are those services necessary to meet the child's developmental needs.

WHAT KINDS OF SERVICES CAN MY CHILD RECEIVE?

Eligible children needing some extra help in gaining their developmental skills may receive a variety of early intervention services. These include, but are not limited to:

- * physical therapy
- * occupational therapy
- * speech/language therapy
- * specialized education
- * psychological services
- * family education/training
- * family counseling
- * nutrition services
- * service coordination
- * vision services
- * medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes
- * transportation



HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS ELIGIBLE FOR EARLY INTERVENTION?

Service Access and Management, Inc. (SAM, Inc.) is the contact point for all early intervention services (birth—three years) in Schuylkill County. If you have a concern about any area of your child's development, you may call the SAM, Inc. Early Intervention Unit at (570) 621-2700 to arrange for a developmental evaluation.

You will have a service coordinator from SAM, Inc. assigned to your child. The service coordinator will conduct an initial contact visit, which consists of an interview to gather information.

The evaluation will determine if your child is eligible to receive early intervention services. This evaluation looks at areas in which your child is thought to be exhibiting delays, as well as assessing your child's overall development.

Children who are "at-risk" for delays in their development may be referred to the Infant Monitoring Project for periodic screening and tracking. A component of Infant Monitoring is "Ages and Stages", a questionnaire program operated directly through the Service Access & Management Inc. (SAM Inc.) Early Intervention Program.

SAM, Inc. contracts with local agencies to provide the evaluation and early intervention services to the age of three. Each of these contracted agencies may be able to provide some part of your child's program. Your service coordinator becomes part of your "team" and helps you to develop a specialized plan for you and your child.

HOW DO WE DECIDE UPON SERVICES FOR MY CHILD?

Your service coordinator and your Evaluation Team reviews the results of the evaluations and an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed. This plan is to be designed especially for you and your child, and addresses the developmental needs, as well as other needs, as prioritized by you. Because the focus of early intervention is on the family, your service coordinator is also able to make referrals to other agencies for non-early intervention services.

WHERE WILL MY CHILD BE SERVED?

Children receive their early intervention services individually or with other children, depending on how your child benefits most. Services should be provided in natural environments, and settings could include your home, a community based area, and/or settings with children who do not have delays in their development, such as a child care center. There is no cost to you for early intervention services.