

FAMILY GUIDE TO NYS EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES - PRENATAL THROUGH AGE 5

Child Care ♦ Home Visiting ♦ Early Intervention ♦ Head Start ♦ State Funded Prekindergarten ♦ Preschool Special Education Services ♦ Resources

Family Guide to NYS Early Childhood Services - Prenatal through Age 5
A resource guide for families to connect and link children to early childhood services in New York State

Home Visiting (prenatal - 5)
Home visitors offer support to pregnant women and families with children birth to age 5 and promote healthy child development. Home visiting is provided at no cost to your family. To find a home visiting program near you: www.bit.ly/homevisitingnys

Home Visiting Programs connect families to community resources such as:
• Medical, Dental & Mental Health Services
• Child Care
• Early Head Start and Head Start
• Early Intervention Services
• Food, Housing and Employment

Child Care (age 6 weeks up through age 12)
NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) provides information on:
• finding care
• paying for care
The website includes helpful videos and handouts and local child care resource and referral agency contacts. www.ocfs.ny.gov

QUALITYstarsNY (QSNY)
QSNY is the NYS quality rating and improvement system to ensure that young children in early care and education programs have access to excellence and their families can trust the quality of the programs they choose. www.qualitystarsny.org

Steps for seeking child care

- Start Early**
Finding the right child care for your family can take some time. It's good to look even when you're pregnant. You can look on the NYS Parent Portal to find child care at: www.nysparenting.org
- Call Your Local CCR&R**
Contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency for information about programs in your area. The list can be found on the OCFS website at: www.bit.ly/ChildCareReferral
- Help Paying for Care**
Did you know that you could be eligible to receive financial support to help pay for child care? Ask your local CCR&R for more information or go to: www.bit.ly/ChildCareFunds
- Visit and Ask Questions**
Visiting is the best way to decide the best fit for your child and family. Make a list of what is important to you.

Early Intervention (age 0 - 3)
Every county has an Early Intervention Program (EIP) to support infants and toddlers ages birth to 3 years with disabilities or developmental delays. Services are provided at no cost to eligible families. Find your county provider at: www.bit.ly/earlyinterventionnys

Referral
Early Intervention Program contacted by a family member or provider.
Initial Service Coordinator
The family is contacted by a Coordinator to share information about EIP.
Evaluation
If a family is eligible, a written plan is developed with the family called an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
IFSP Meeting
IFSP is reviewed every 6 months.
Early Intervention Services
Your child is re-evaluated every year.
IFSP Review
Transition to
Early Childhood Education or Preschool Special Education

Examples of Early Intervention Services include:
• Speech therapy • Occupational therapy
• Physical therapy • Family counseling

Head Start (age 0 - 5)
Head Start and Early Head Start offer services and supports to eligible families to help reach their goals. Programs offer full-day, half-day and home visiting options at no cost for families. To find a program near you go to: www.bit.ly/headstartprograms

Head Start Supports
Early Learning • Health • Mental Health
Special Education • Family Well-Being

Play Grow Learn

State-Funded PreKindergarten (age 3 - 4)
Prekindergarten helps prepare children for school. Programs are offered through your local school district or community based organizations at no cost to your family. Check with your local school district for more information. www.bit.ly/earlylearningnys

Preschool Special Education (age 3 - 5)
Preschool Special Education provides services to meet the needs of identified preschool students with disabilities. Services are provided through your local school district at no cost to your family. www.bit.ly/specialednys

Preschool Special Education includes an Individual Education Program and annual review:

- IEP**
An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed to meet your child's needs and goals.
- Annual Review**
Each year, a meeting is held to review your child's progress and decide on next year's goals.

Available online in 12 languages



عربي Arabic

Español Spanish

বাঙালি Bengali

Polski Polish

中文 Chinese

Русский Russian

Kreyòl ayisyen Haitian-Creole

Український Ukrainian

Italiano Italian

יידיש Yiddish

한국어 Korean



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