Welcome!

During our time together, please:

- Keep yourself muted unless you want to speak
- Use chat to make comments or ask questions until discussion period
- Refrain from disclosing personal details
- Let us know if you have any accessibility needs
Does My Child Need an Early Intervention Evaluation?

Some things to consider
Our Mission

The mission of the PEAL Center is to educate and empower families to ensure that children, youth and young adults with disabilities and special health care needs lead rich, active lives as full members of their schools and communities.
Participants will be able to:

• Describe the purpose of Early Interventions services

• Identify ways to identify your child’s expected developmental milestones

• Discuss the importance of early identification of early delays or disabilities

• Describe actions to take if you suspect a developmental delay or disability
Question:

Have you ever been concerned about your child’s development?

Have you requested an Early Intervention Evaluation?
What is Early Intervention (EI)?

A system of services that helps babies and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities during the first three years, such as:

• Physical (reaching, rolling, sitting, walking, muscle tone)
• Cognitive (thinking, learning, solving problems)
• Communication (gestures, words, listening and understanding)
• Social-Emotional (relationships, sense of safety, emotional regulation)
• Self-Help (eating, dressing, practicing independence)
Examples of EI Services

- Assistive technology (devices a child might need)
- Audiology or hearing services
- Speech and language services
- Counseling and training for a family
- Medical services
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Social Work Services
Early Intervention Evaluation is Your Right!

- Authorized by the law Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C birth to 3. Part B 619 age 3-5

- Early intervention services are provided free for families in Pennsylvania
Who is Eligible for Services?

• Qualifying conditions identified at birth, or delays emerge as the child grows

• EI services do NOT REQUIRE A DIAGNOSIS

• Don’t wait! You can always contact PA Early Intervention Services to have your child evaluated

• Free to families!
Identifying a Possible Delay

“Wait and See” takes time that developing brains do not have!
Early Intervention changes lives

Brains are building their foundations in the first years of life!

After the age of three, the period of rapid development slows down, and changes to existing connections will take more time.
Question

What might make you hesitate to request an evaluation?
Early Identification is Key!

• Problem: children with delays, especially those who go on to be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders, are being identified after the period of the most rapid brain development

• For ASD, 4 years of age is average – and older for children of color

• When children are identified early and provided with effective early intervention services, outcomes are optimized
Tools for you to use now

- Learn the Signs. Act Early and the Milestones Tracker App
More Tools

- Autism Navigator
- Baby Navigator
Next Steps: What to do if you suspect a delay

• Speak with your pediatrician who should be doing developmental screenings at the very least 9, 18 and 30 months. Autism screenings at 18 and 24 months.

• You can call the CONNECT Helpline 1-800-692-7288 or email help@connectpa.net. Connect can assist you with making a direct link to your county Early Intervention, or preschool Early Intervention.

• PA Early Intervention website.

• Continue to talk, read and play with your child. Learn to look at their strengths and support them.
Evaluation

HOW TO SCAN QR CODE

- Open the Camera APP on your phone.
- Point the camera at the circle.
- Tap the screen to open the page.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PEALtrainingeval

Serving families across PA with offices in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia
Questions and Discussion
Resources


• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Learn the Signs Act Early. https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html

• Autism Navigator/Baby Navigator: https://autismnavigator.com/family-resources/

• PA Early Intervention Website: https://www.education.pa.gov/Early%20Learning/Early%20Intervention/Pages/default.aspx
Thank You!

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