



## What is Preschool Early Intervention?

Preschool Early Intervention in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children ages 3 to 5 who have developmental delays. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, caregivers, service providers, and others significantly involved with your child. Services help address your concerns about your child's development and enhance your family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of your child in the settings where children would be if they did not have a disability. Early Intervention practitioners work collaboratively with families, caregivers, and educators to help children grow and learn and to prevent the need for more and costly intervention in the future.

BCIU Early Intervention is a public special education service provided to children who are experiencing a delay in development. If a child is eligible, he or she will receive appropriate educational services at no cost, through federal and state funds.

For more information visit us online:  
[www.berksiu.org/ei](http://www.berksiu.org/ei)

or call:  
**610-987-8544**  
**610-987-8612 (Spanish)**

**BCIU** Berks County  
Intermediate Unit  
an educational service agency

helping schools excel | helping children learn

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## Transition to Preschool



## PRESCHOOL EARLY INTERVENTION

**BCIU** Early Intervention  
A program of the  
Berks County Intermediate Unit  
an educational service agency

# Early Intervention Special Education Services for the Preschool Student

## What are Preschool Early Intervention Services and Supports?

Preschool Early Intervention (EI) is preschool special education provided by the public school system within your school district service area. EI staff work together with parents and caregivers to meet the unique needs of a child. EI is not a preschool program. EI helps children with disabilities participate in the preschool programs they would attend if they didn't have disabilities. Services may include: learning about child development, ways to help the child grow and learn, adjustments to curriculum and instruction, family supports, and developmental therapies. Services may happen in the home, school, or community. EI also helps link families to other resources.

## How does my child qualify for services?

An evaluation will determine eligibility for Early Intervention supports and services based on developmental delay and/or disability and the need for specially designed instruction. If your child is determined eligible, the information from the evaluation will help the Early

Intervention team know what is important to the family and helps the team create a plan for meaningful individualized services.

## What kinds of services are available?

Early Intervention services can include: information on how children develop, parent/caregiver education, family supports, and developmental therapies that assist in child development. Early Intervention is individualized and provides family and community centered supports to the family and child to enhance the child's growing and learning. When a child attends an early care and education setting, Early Intervention assists the early childhood staff with strategies to promote the child's development. Early Intervention can also assist families to link to a variety of community services and supports.

## Where are services provided?

Early Intervention is individualized and provides supports to the family and child in settings or in community educational programs where the child would be if they did not have a disability.

## What do services cost?

Early Intervention supports and services are provided at no cost to families by the public school system within your school district area.



## Who provides the services?

The Preschool Early Intervention program provides services through highly qualified and certified special education personnel who are specialists at supporting children with special learning needs.

## Does Early Intervention make my child eligible for medical assistance?

Eligibility for Early Intervention does not automatically make your child eligible for Medical Assistance. Your child must meet the Social Security Insurance disability criteria to be eligible for medical assistance.

## Are child care services available through the Preschool Early Intervention Program?

Preschool Early Intervention does not provide child care. The program provides special education services and supports to help a child access, participate, and learn within their child care or preschool. There are many child care programs that welcome children with special needs. For information on child care resources within the community, please contact BCIU Child Care Information Services at 610-987-CCIS (2247) or toll free at 800-257-3038.



“We feel that because of the joint efforts of the BCIU, teachers, therapists, and us all working together, a difference has been made in our daughter's life. She is better off for having these Early Intervention services.”

*the Wentzel family*