

Meeting Your Service Coordinator

A service coordinator is a person who works with you during your child's involvement with the EI Colorado program to assist you in accessing services and supports and to inform you of your legal rights. Federal and state laws require that all children and families served by the EI Colorado program have a service coordinator. A service coordinator is your main contact and is assigned to each infant or toddler and their family within three business days of the referral being received.

Service Coordinators:

- Help families identify their strengths and needs, find resources, think about decisions the family needs to make, coordinate all the services specified on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and
- Make sure that the rights of the family are protected.

Your family may choose to carry out the first of these on your own. However, the early intervention system is required by law to provide someone to protect your legal rights.

A service coordinator should offer the type and amount of help that you want or need. He or she should respect your decisions and help you carry them out. The person serving as your service coordinator may change if your child's or



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family's needs and desires change. If you want to have a different service coordinator, you may make a request directly to your service coordinator or his or her supervisor.

What can you expect from your service coordinator during the referral and evaluation and/or assessment process?

Your service coordinator will help set up the multidisciplinary evaluation and/or assessment and can answer questions you might have about the process. Evaluations and/or assessments can be done in a variety of places and ways. It will most likely involve talking with you about your child, learning about your child by watching him or her play, and interacting with your child. Because you know your child best, you will be a very important part of the evaluation and/or assessment process. Your service coordinator is responsible for making sure that your wishes and concerns guide this process.

If it is determined that your child is not eligible at this time, the evaluation team and/or your service coordinator will refer your child and family to other appropriate supports



and services outside of the EI Colorado program, if needed. You can always contact the CCB serving your community in the future if you have renewed concerns about your child's development. If you do not agree with the results of the evaluation, you have the right to object to the decision and to file a complaint. Your service coordinator will assist you with this process.

If your child is eligible, your service coordinator will work with you and the other members of the IFSP team to develop your child's IFSP. This plan is discussed in detail in the second family guidebook, "Individualized Family Service Plan and Orientation to Early Intervention Services".

Screening Your Child's Development

Depending on the reason of referral and if your child's development has not already been screened, a request may be made to screen your child's development. A screening is a quick look at how your child is developing and learning. People trained to determine how your child is developing conduct screenings to:

- Find out what areas of development, if any, are behind what would be expected for your child.
- Help an evaluation team decide what type of evaluation may be best for your child and who should be involved.
- Find out if your child's development is "on target" even though a problem was suspected.

A screening can only occur with your written permission and you will receive the results of this screening to help you plan next steps. If the screening shows your child's development is "on target," it is unlikely that your child will be eligible for the EI Colorado program. Even if the screening suggests your child is developing on target, you have the right to ask for, and get, a full multidisciplinary evaluation and/or assessment for your child.



Five Areas of Development

- Adaptive or self-help skills—such as feeding and dressing;
- Cognitive skills—such as thinking, learning, and reasoning;
- Communication skills—such as understanding and using sounds, gestures, and words, pointing, understanding your words, expressing thoughts;
- Physical development—such as vision, hearing, movement and health; and
- Social emotional development—such as getting along with others, expressing feelings, developing relationships.

