

A Guide to Early Intervention In Rhode Island



early intervention

supporting families and child development



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

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THE RHODE ISLAND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Welcome!

We are delighted to offer this guide as a resource for your family. This guide has basic information about Early Intervention (EI), your rights and responsibilities and some resources you might find helpful.

What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention is a voluntary program that provides early identification, services, and support to eligible children (from birth to three years old) and their families. The purpose of Early Intervention is to help young children to be active and successful participants in a variety of settings - in their homes with their families, in childcare, in preschool programs, and in the community.

The overall vision for what we hope children and their families achieve as a result of Early Intervention is that:

- *Children have positive social relationships.*
- *Children acquire and use knowledge and skills.*
- *Children take appropriate actions to meet their needs.*
- *Families understand their children's strengths, abilities, and special needs.*
- *Families understand their rights within the law and effectively communicate their children's needs.*
- *Families help their children develop and learn.*
- *Families have adequate social support.*
- *Families access services and activities that are available to all families in their community.*

Who is Eligible for EI?

Infants and toddlers from birth to three

- experiencing developmental delays,
- with certain diagnosed conditions, or
- whose circumstances are likely to result in significant developmental problems.

All children grow and learn at different rates, but most develop a basic set of skills by a certain age. Children who have developmental delays may have special challenges or conditions that need attention. The Early Intervention Program helps families learn how to best help their child.

How "Early Intervention" Works

One of the key aspects of the EI program is for parents and the EI staff to work together as a team. Each family will have an Early Intervention Service Coordinator. The Service Coordinator will begin by learning about your child and his/her daily routines, including what your child enjoys, what is difficult for your child and family, and

your child's medical history and development. Your Service Coordinator will also talk with you about any concerns you have about your child.

The Family's Role in Early Intervention

Families are encouraged to actively participate in the Early Intervention Program. The EI staff is sensitive to family differences and can work with families in meeting the needs of their child and family to assist them. Please talk with the Early Intervention staff about your concerns and priorities and let them know what is working for you and what is not.

Some suggestions for making the most of each visit include:

- Schedule your visits during times that are best for your child and family. Actively participate in all visits.
- Write down any questions you may have.
- Ask to be shown anything you do not completely understand. Practice the strategies together during the visit and between visits during your daily routine.
- Make notes about what is working and what is not. Most of the progress your child makes in Early Intervention happens between visits when you practice new strategies during your every day routines. Share your thoughts with your Service Coordinator.
- Please call us as soon as possible if you need to cancel or reschedule a visit.

Natural Environments

What's unique about Early Intervention is that services are provided in "natural" environments. Research shows that children learn best when they practice new skills during their daily routines, and activities. Family members and/or caregivers do the actual "hands-on" work throughout the day, as opportunities arise with service providers acting as teachers, consultants, and coaches.

Development of the Individualized Family Service Plan

After a child is determined eligible for Early Intervention, the Early Intervention staff and the family design a plan called the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This plan outlines the child's strengths and needs. It is developed based on the information gathered from an evaluation or assessment and the concerns and priorities of the family. It includes individualized strategies and supports that can be used to meet the desired outcomes or goals in the IFSP. The plan (IFSP) is reviewed every six months or as needed. Families may request an IFSP review at any time and must agree to any changes that are made in a child's IFSP.

Parent Consultants

Every EI program has a Parent Consultant. Each Parent Consultant has a child(ren) who has been in Early Intervention. They work with families to share resources, provide support and help EI families connect with other families in the program. They also help as families transition out of EI.

If you are interested in learning more about the Parent Consultant Program, please contact RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN) at 727-4144. RI Parent Information Network provides information, support, and training to empower parents, families and individuals to become effective advocates for themselves and their families.

RI Interagency Coordinating Council

The RI Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is an advisory committee whose membership is appointed by the Governor of Rhode Island. The ICC provides a forum for public input from families, service providers, and other stakeholders regarding federal and state policies on the Early Intervention Program. Meetings are open to the public. For more information on ICC meetings, please contact, Lisa Landry-Testa, ICC Chair, at 444-8485.

Rhode Island Early Intervention Certified Providers

Anyone, including parents, can make a referral to the Early Intervention Program. For more information on which Early Intervention programs serve your city or town, please call RI Parent Information Network at 401-727-4144.

Children's Friend & Services

621 Dexter Street
Central Falls, RI 02863
Phone: 721-9200
Fax: 729-0010

James L. Maher Center

120 Hillside Avenue
Newport, RI 02840
Phone: 848-2660
Fax: 847-9459

Easter Seals, RI

213 Robinson Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Phone: 284-1000
Fax: 284-1006

J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center

250 Commonwealth Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886
Phone: 823-1731
Fax: 823-1849

Family Resources Community Action

245 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Phone: 766-0900
Fax: 766-8737

25 West Independence Way, Suite N
Kingstown, RI 02881
Phone: 284-1980
Fax: 284-1979

Family Service

134 Thurbers Avenue
Providence, RI 02905
Phone: 331-1350
Fax: 277-3388

Looking Upwards, Inc.

Iron Gate II – 438 East Main Road
Middletown, RI 02842
Phone: 847-0960
Fax: 849-0290

Hasbro Early Intervention

765 Allens Avenue, 1st floor
Providence, RI 02905
Phone: 444-3201
Fax: 444-6115
Referral line: 444-8982

Meeting Street

1000 Eddy Street
Providence, RI 02905
Phone: 533-9100
Fax: 533-9012
Referral line: 533-9104

Homestead Group

One Cumberland Plaza, 3rd Floor
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Phone: 775-1500
Fax: 762-0837

Family Rights

All families in Early Intervention have specific rights under federal law. These rights are identified in The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that supports special education for children with disabilities or developmental delays. Part C of this law covers services for infants and toddlers and guarantees certain rights, called procedural safeguards, for their families.

Timely development of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

All families have the right to a timely, multidisciplinary evaluation and/ or assessment and a meeting to initiate an IFSP within forty-five (45) calendar days from their referral to the Early Intervention program.

Written Prior Notice

Written prior notice must be given to the family at least seven (7) calendar days before the EI program can start, stop, or change an evaluation, placement, or services to the child and family. The notice must include the action that is being proposed or refused, the reasons for taking the action and the family's rights, including a description of how to file a complaint if needed. All prior written notices must be in the parent's native language unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.

Use of a Parent's Native Language or Preferred Mode of Communication

It is a family's right to thoroughly understand all activities and written records about their child. If families prefer another language or way of communicating, Early Intervention will get an interpreter if possible. The Early Intervention Program wants families to understand so that they can be an informed team member and decision maker.

Parental Consent

Parental consent means the parent, or legal guardian, has been fully informed about the evaluation, assessment, or service that is about to take place; and they agree with it. Parental consent may be withdrawn at any time. Refusing services may be done at any time without jeopardizing other EI services that the child and family are receiving. If a parent does not consent, the EI Program will make every reasonable effort to ensure that they:

- Are fully aware of the nature of the evaluation and assessment of the services that would be available; and
- Understand that their child will not be able to receive the evaluation, assessment, or services until consent is given.

Surrogate Parents

A "surrogate parent" is appointed for the child when the child is a ward of the state and the parent(s) have waived their right to make decisions in Early Intervention, the parent's whereabouts are unknown, or parental rights have been terminated. A surrogate parent may represent the child in all matters relating to the evaluation and assessment of the child and the development and implementation of the child's IFSP.

When a child approaches age three and is about to transition from Early Intervention, the Surrogate is replaced by an Educational Advocate so the child may be represented during the eligibility process for Special Education. The Surrogate and Educational Advocate may be the same person, as the child bridges Part C (Early Intervention) and Part B (Special Education) of the Individuals with Disabilities Act. Your Service Coordinator will guide you through this process.

Confidentiality and Release of Information

Early Intervention providers must ensure the protection of any personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained consistent with state and federal laws.. The Early Intervention Program needs the family's written

permission to get a child's records from other providers, the records that the Early Intervention Program will develop will not be shared with anyone without written permission.

Review of Records

Early Intervention must give families the opportunity to review any EI records relating to their own child. The Early Intervention agency must comply with a family's request without unnecessary delay, and no more than forty-five (45) calendar days after the request has been made.

Parents have the right to inspect and review only the information relating to their child, or to be informed of that specific information, if the EI record includes information on more than one child.

Resolving Disagreements

If you disagree with the plan or services outlined in your child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), you are dissatisfied with the services you are receiving, or feel your rights have been violated, you should first speak with your Service Coordinator about the situation and try to resolve it with your IFSP team. If you are not able to come to an agreement, you should ask to speak to the program supervisor or the program director so that you can discuss your concerns with them. Your program's parent consultant may also be helpful.

Mediation

The quickest way to resolve a concern is to talk with a service coordinator, parent consultant, program supervisor or program director. However when a family feels these avenues have not worked, they may submit a formal written complaint. Mediation will be offered as a voluntary step. A trained, impartial mediator will facilitate problem solving between the family and the Early Intervention Program. If an agreement that satisfies both parties cannot be reached, the family can have a due process hearing to resolve the complaint. Mediation will not slow down the hearing process.

Requests for mediation can be sent Rhode Island Department of Human Services, The Early Intervention Program, Center for Child and Family Health, Hazard Building #74, West Rd., Cranston, RI 02920

Due Process Hearing

A parent may request a due process hearing regarding Early Intervention's proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of appropriate early intervention services by submitting a written request for a due process hearing.

Written requests for a due process hearing are sent to: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, The Early Intervention Program, Center for Child and Family Health, Hazard Building #74, West Rd., Cranston, RI 02920. Details for the written request are posted on the Department of Human Service website at www.dhs.ri.gov or by calling the Department of Human Service Info Line at 462-5300.

Assistance from the Department of Human Services

Staff at the Department of Human Services can assist families and Early Intervention providers by answering questions, offering information, and directly interacting with families and Early Intervention staff. Families can call the DHS Information Line at the Department of Human Services at (401) 462-5300.

A Central Directory of Resources

Evaluation & Specialty Services:

Children's NeuroDevelopment Center (CNDC)

Rhode Island Hospital, George Building, 1st floor, 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903

444-5927

The CNDC serves families with children from birth to 21 years old. Referrals to the CNDC must be made by the child's physician.

The CNDC offers evaluations of children and adolescents by a team of specialists. After completing a series of evaluations, a team of specialists meets to make a diagnosis and recommendations for treatment. This team approach allows coordination between specialists. Children who have multiple conditions may benefit from an evaluation at the CNDC. Specialists from the following areas are involved as needed: Education, Nutrition, Hearing and Speech, Occupational Therapy, Genetics, Physical Therapy, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Neurology, Psychology, Nursing, and Social Services. Consults are also available from other pediatric specialties, including neurosurgery, orthopedics, urology, and otolaryngology.

Bradley Hospital

1011 Veterans Memorial Parkway, East Providence, RI 02915

432-1000

www.bradleyhospital.org

A private, not-for-profit hospital that serves children and adolescents who have behavioral, developmental, emotional, and psychological problems. A Lifespan partner and Brown Medical School affiliate, Bradley has established itself as a national center for training and research in child and adolescent psychiatry.

CEDARR Family Centers

For children and youth with special health care needs and their families

CEDARR stands for Comprehensive, Evaluation, Diagnosis, Assessment, Referral, and Re-evaluation. CEDARR Family Centers serve children from birth to age 21 with Medicaid.

A CEDARR Family Centers can help families:

- Learn more about their child's disability;
- Learn how to address their child's needs now and plan for the future;
- Find resources in the local community;
- Get information and access to a range of services and treatment options; and
- Connect with other families who have had similar experiences.

About Families CEDARR Center

203 Concord Street, Suite 335

Pawtucket, RI 02860

365-6855

Families First CEDARR

765 Allens Ave. 1st floor

Providence, RI 02905

444-7703

1 Frank Coelho Drive

Portsmouth, RI 02871

365-6855

Solutions CEDARR

134 Thurbers Avenue, Suite 102
Providence, RI 02905
461-4351 or (800) 640-7283

Lafayette Mills, 610 Ten Rod Rd., Unit 13
N. Kingstown, RI 02852
461-4351 or (800) 640-7283

Empowered Families CEDARR

82 Pond Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
365-6103 or (888) 881-6380

19 Valley Rd.
Middletown, RI 02842
365-6103 or (888) 881-6380

**The Providence Center, Early Childhood Institute
Solutions for the Behavioral and Emotional Health of Young Children**

520 Hope Street
Providence, RI 02906
276-4137 or (800) 456-0300
www.providencecenter.org

The Providence Center’s Early Childhood Institute offers the following services for children from birth to age 5:

- Classroom, office, and community-based treatment for children under 5 who have behaviors that seriously disrupt their homes and child care settings. Treatment includes working with parents and other caregivers.
- Parent-child assessment and reunification activities.
- Training and consultation to childcare providers about: understanding social/emotional development, effective intervention strategies, environmental structure, and professional relationships; Trainings may be developed to meet the specific needs of a child care provider.
- Training for mental health professionals, health care providers, child care administrators, and early childhood teachers.
- Parent education workshops.

Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP)

Children and Youth Resource Center at the East Bay Collaborative
317 Market Street
Warren, RI 02885
245-4998 x302
www.ebecri.org
www.atap.state.ri.us

ATAP is a coordinating agency that works in partnership with other assistive technology agencies to provide information about devices that assist people with disabilities to function better at home, work, school, or in the community. ATAP also advocates for laws and policies that help people function better at home, work, in school or in the community.

TechAccess of Rhode Island

110 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite I
Warwick, RI 02888
463-0202 or (800) 916-8324
www.techaccess-ri.org

A private, not-for-profit resource center that serves people with disabilities that are interested in assistive technology. Information about products, funding, and services are available at no charge. Referral services are available.

The Autism Project of Rhode Island

1516 Atwood Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
785-2666
www.theautismproject.org

The Autism Project is a group of dedicated parents and professionals whose mission is to create a comprehensive system of services to support individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. They offer a full array of social skills groups for children and teens with an autism spectrum disorder of all abilities. The Autism Project offers professional training workshops, training for parents of newly diagnosed children, a camp for children with ASD and related communication disorders and parent consultants that can assist families with coordinating resources.

Family Care Community Partnership contacts (FCCP)

(A DCYF Program)

Provides family supports and services for children, youth, and families who are at risk for involvement with DCYF or have a serious emotional disturbance.

Agency:

Family Service
134 Thurbers Ave
Providence, RI 02905
Phone: 331-1350

Family Resources Community Action
245 Main Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
Phone: 766-0900

South County Community Action
1935 Kingstown Road
Wakefield, RI 02879
Phone: 789-3016

Child and Family Services of Newport
24 School Street
Newport, RI 02842
Phone: 849-2300

Geographic Area Served:

Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket and Cranston.

Burrillville, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Scituate, Smithfield, Woonsocket.

Charlestown, Coventry, East Greenwich, Exeter, Hopkinton, Narragansett, New Shoreham, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, Warwick, West Greenwich, West Warwick, Westerly.

Barrington, Bristol, East Providence, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Warren.

Vulnerable Infants Programs (VIP)

50 Holden Street
Providence, RI 02908
276-7887

The Vulnerable Infants Program provides care coordination and support for drug or alcohol exposed infants and their families. The program is designed to improve the community's ability to manage cases of drug-exposed children at risk for compromised development and to provide the earliest and best intervention for these infants.

Groden Center, Inc. at the Livingston Center for Early Childhood Education

Services and supports for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Behavioral Disorder and Psychological Disorders.

30 Livingston Street
Providence, RI 02904
Supervisor: Cindy Akers
E-mail: cakers@grodencenter.org
Phone: 525-2380 (for Cindy and referrals)
Classroom phone: 421-1895
Fax: 421-3280

Director: Leslie Weidenman
E-mail: lweidenman@grodencenter.org
86 Mount Hope Avenue
Providence, RI 02906
Phone: 274-6310 x1006

Rhode Island Hearing Assessment Program (RIHAP)

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, Women and Infants Hospital
100 Dudley Street, Suite 2
Providence, RI 02905
277-3700 voice/relay; 277-3701 TDD; rihap@wihri.org

Rhode Island requires that all newborns have a hearing screening prior to leaving the hospital. Those that fail the screening test or pass but require monitoring are referred to an audiologist for follow-up. Parents who have infants over 3 months of age are usually referred to the Audiology Clinic at Women & Infants Hospital.

Audiology Clinic at Women & Infants Hospital

134 Thurbers Avenue, Suite 215
Providence, RI 02905
453-7751

Provides audiology testing and services for infants older than 2 months, and children and adults.

Rhode Island School for the Deaf – Hearing Center

One Corliss Park
Providence, RI 02908
222-3525

Provides hearing assessments for children 1-18 years of age. There is no cost to families for this service.

RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired

Office of Rehabilitative Services
RI Department of Human Services
40 Fountain Street
Providence, RI 02903
222-2300 (272-8090 Spanish; 421-7016 TDD)
www.ors.ri.gov

Provides the following services for children (birth to 3 years of age):

- Case management services to assist the family with transition from Early Intervention to school;
- Functional vision evaluations;
- Coordination with a teacher from the RI Vision Education & Services Program (see below); and
- Assistance with purchasing low vision equipment or adaptive aids, if appropriate.

RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired also serve older children and adults.

RI Vision Education & Services Program (RIVESP)

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College
456-8910

RIVESP provides a teacher who is specially trained to work with children (from birth to 3 years of age) who are blind or visually impaired. This vision teacher coordinates with the RI Services for the Blind & Visually Impaired Program (see above) and consults with all of Rhode Island's Early Intervention Programs. In addition to the birth to 3 age group, this program also provides services and supports to children up to age 21.

Community Asthma Programs of Hasbro Children's Hospital

Rhode Island Hospital
593 Eddy Street, P.O. Box 438
Providence, RI 02903
444-8340

The goal of the Community Asthma Programs is to assist families in developing the knowledge, motivation, and skills to advocate for their children's health and successfully manage asthma.

Comprehensive Emergency Services (CES)

Comprehensive Emergency Services is a short-term, home-based intervention program for families in crisis. This statewide program provides case management, counseling and educational services to children and families. The program is designed to prevent child abuse and placement out-of-home, to resolve family conflict and rectify dysfunctional aspects of family relations.

www.dcyf.ri.gov

Dual Sensory Impairment Project

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
456-8072

The *Dual Sensory Impairment Project* serves children from birth through age 21, giving families who have children with vision and hearing loss resources to make informed choices. The Project also includes a free assistive technology and toy lending library. Project staff work with schools and also provide direct family support using Parent Consultants.

Information & Support:

Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

175 Main Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 – toll free in RI only
TDD: 727-4151
www.ripin.org

RIPIN provides information, support, and training to empower parents, families and individuals to become effective advocates for themselves and their families. Workshops are offered on parenting, special education, early intervention, and transition. The RIPIN Parent Resource Call Center is available to assist callers on all issues affecting children and their families.

Family to Family (a RIPIN program)

727-4144
www.rifamilytofamily.net

Family to Family connects families of children with special needs with other families who have similar needs and experiences. This gives families the opportunity to share information and support and get information on local, state, and national resources.

Family Voices of Rhode Island (a RIPIN program)

727-4144
familyvoices@ripin.org

Family Voices of Rhode Island offers health information, advocacy, training, and support to help families learn about their child's illness or disability and ultimately seek positive outcomes for their child and family. Family Voices is part of a national network of families and friends of children with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses.

Autism Spectrum Disorders Support Center (Department of Education)

Autism Spectrum Disorders Support Center provides professional development opportunities and resource materials for educators and parents in an effort to increase their knowledge of the disorder as well as approaches regarding the education of children with ASD.

Services and supports that are offered through this initiative include: workshops and in-service trainings and resources for individuals with ASD, parents/families and educators.

RIDE Office of Special Needs

255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903
222-4600 x 2014
222-6030 - Fax
www.ritap.org

Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

1395 Atwood Ave.
Suite 114

Johnston, RI 02919
467-6855 or (800) 483-8844
www.psnri.org

PSN is a state-wide organization of families supporting families with children and youth who are at risk for or who have behavioral and/or emotional challenges. They offer support groups, telephone support, educational events, and one-to-one assistance with advocacy. They also provide information on education, mental health, parenting a child with emotional or behavioral needs, juvenile justice, and substance abuse case support. Meetings are held in various areas throughout the state. Services are also available in Spanish.

Moms Club

Moms Club consists of support groups for women who stay home part- or full-time with their children. Visit <http://www.momsclub.org> to find a chapter in your area.

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

Supported by RIPIN
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 – toll free in RI only

The *Parents As Teachers* program is designed to provide parents of children from before birth to age 5, the information and support they need to give their children the best possible start in life. Parents As Teachers offers regularly scheduled home visits by certified parent educators. There is no fee for participation. Parents As Teachers has programs in many communities throughout Rhode Island.

Project Early Start

Project Early Start is a comprehensive program for families with children from birth to three years old who are at risk for developmental, health, and social problems. The project provides information on parenting, child development, home management, and family interaction skills. Parenting groups and play groups are also available. Anyone can refer a family to the program. Income guidelines apply. Project Early Start is coordinated by the Department of Children, Youth and Families who has contracts with individual agencies to provide services. For a provider in your area, families may contact RI Parent Information Network at 727-4144.

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities

Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
456-8072 voice
456-8773 TT
www.sherlockcenter.org

The Paul V. Sherlock Center is a University Center for Excellence in Disability. Its mission is to support membership of individuals with disabilities in school, work, and society. Its four core functions are: interdisciplinary training, community outreach and service, dissemination of information, and research.

Resources at Hasbro Children’s Hospital and other Lifespan Hospitals

Frequent Flyers is a service available for children with special health care needs & their families. The purpose of *Frequent Flyers* is to facilitate admission to the hospital for children with frequent admissions. Any family with a child who is a frequent user of a Lifespan hospital (RI Hospital, Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Miriam Hospital, Bradley Hospital, and Newport Hospital) can access this service. *Frequent Flyers* has a database that families can add to. The database consists of a summary of the child’s medical condition, medications and allergies, common presenting problems, and how they are managed. It also includes the family’s comments, child’s photo, primary and specialty physicians, home care providers, and emergency contacts. Parents are provided with a secure home-based access to their child’s database and can email or send in updates. For more information, contact the Family Center at Hasbro Children’s Hospital at 444-3201.

Max All Star Kids is a program for families who have a child with a chronic and/or life-threatening medical condition. The goals of this program are to relieve pain and distressing symptoms and provide services that enhance the comfort and quality of life for the child and family. For more information, contact the Hasbro Children’s Hospital Foundation at 444-5685.

The Lending Library at Hasbro Children’s Hospital offers a lending library free to all Hasbro Children’s Hospital patients and their parents. The general public is also welcome to use the Family Resource Center for a small annual fee. Resources for families and children include books, audio tapes, videos, and computer searches of online medical databases. Topics include: parenting children with special needs, general parenting, medical conditions, hospitalization, mental health, and bereavement. The library is located at the Hospital’s Family Resource Center, first floor, room 118 and is open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. If you need assistance, call the center to make an appointment for a staff member to be on hand. Family Resource Center 444-6090.

Rhode Island Disability Law Center, Inc.

275 Westminster St., Suite 401
Providence, RI 02903
831-3150 or (800) 733-5332
831-5335 TDY

Provides free legal assistance for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Special education and legal rights information and referral services are available.

RI Medical Assistance Program

There are four ways that children may become eligible for Medical Assistance Coverage: 1) Supplemental Security Income (SSI), 2) Katie Beckett, 3) Adoption subsidy through DCYF, or 4) RIte Care or RIte Share. Each of these ways has a different application process.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) –A child maybe eligible to receive SSI benefits if they have a disability and if their parents’ income meets the income requirements. Children eligible for SSI automatically are eligible to receive Medical Assistance. For more information, please call (800) 772-1213.

Katie Beckett – Katie Beckett is an eligibility provision of the Medical Assistance Program that provides Medical Assistance coverage to certain children up to age 19 with long-term disabilities or complex medical needs. Children may be eligible if they meet a specific level of care criteria. The “level of care”

criteria means that the child is in need of services such as those typically provided in a hospital, skilled nursing facility, or institutional care facility for the mentally retarded (ICFMR). Also, the child's income and resources, not their parents, are used to determine eligibility. For more information, please call the DHS Info Line at 462-5300.

Adoption Subsidy – Children in substitute care (foster care) can also get Medical Assistance coverage. For more information, please call Adoption Services at DCYF: 254-7021.

RItE Care – RItE Care is RI's Medicaid managed care program that provides health coverage to families in the Rhode Island Works Program and eligible uninsured pregnant women, parents and children up to age 19. RItE Care enrollees receive their health care through one of three participating health plans: Neighborhood Health Plan of RI; United Healthcare of New England; and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island. Eligibility for RItE Care is based on income and family size. For more information, please call the DHS Info Line at 462-5300 or check www.dhs.ri.gov.

RItE Share – RItE Share is RI's premium assistance program that helps families obtain health coverage through their employer's health insurance plan. If eligible, RItE Share will pay all or part of the employee's cost of health insurance. Employers must offer an approved health plan. Eligibility and the application process is similar to RItE Care's. Please call the DHS Info Line for more information: 462-5300.

<p>Brain Injury Association of RI</p> <p>BIA of RI provides education and referrals and support to brain injury survivors and caregivers.</p> <p>www.biausa.org/RI/ 401-461-6599</p>	<p>www.211ri.org</p> <p>By dialing “211” or through the internet, 211ri provides information and resources on housing, education, health, crisis intervention, disability services and more. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p>	<p>RI Donation Exchange Program</p> <p>The Furniture Bank operates as a redistribution center by soliciting donations of good quality furniture and household items from individuals and businesses statewide. These items are passed on to qualified individuals and families who have been referred to our program by a member network</p> <p>http://ridonationexchange.com/ 401-831-5511</p>
<p>CHADD of RI</p> <p>Provides support and education for children and adults with Attention Deficit Disorder</p> <p>http://www.chadd.net 401-943-9399</p>	<p>RI Developmental Disabilities Council</p> <p>RI DDC works to address concerns and issues facing people with developmental disabilities and their families.</p> <p>www.riddc.org 401-737-1238</p>	<p>Autism Speaks</p> <p>National organization providing information, education, and advocacy for those with autism and their families</p> <p>www.autismspeaks.org</p>
<p>National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities</p> <p>A central source of information on disabilities in infants, toddlers, children, and youth, IDEA, and information on effective educational practices.</p> <p>www.nichcy.org</p>	<p>National Organization for Rare Disorders</p> <p>NORD is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them.</p> <p>www.rarediseases.org 203-744-0100</p>	<p>Resource Publications</p> <p>Transition from Early Intervention: A Family Guide Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities, RI College www.sherlockcenter.org , 456-8072</p> <p>RI Resource Guide for Families of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, RI Resource Guide for Families of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders</p> <p>RI Department of Health, http://www.health.state.ri.us 222-5960</p>
<p>Down Syndrome Society of RI</p> <p>401-463-5751</p>	<p>Office of Special Populations RI Department of Education</p> <p>http://www.ride.ri.gov/ Department of Education Info Line: 401-222-3505</p>	<p>Fragile X Families of RI</p> <p>Provides support and education to individuals with Fragile X Syndrome and their families.</p> <p>www.fragilex.org</p>
<p>Muscular Dystrophy Association</p> <p>732-1910</p>	<p>Child Abuse Hotline</p> <p>800-RI-CHILD 800-742-4453</p>	<p>United Cerebral Palsy of RI</p> <p>401-728-1800 http://www.ucp.org</p>

Childcare & Education:

Child Outreach Screening (for children ages 3-5)

Child Outreach Screening is a program overseen by the Rhode Island Department of Education and offered through every local school district. It is available to all children ages 3-5. This developmental screening looks at several areas including language, cognition, motor, speech, vision, hearing, behavior and socialization. If areas of concern are identified, a referral will be made to the families' local school system for an evaluation to determine eligibility for preschool special education services. For more information, please contact your local Child Outreach program listed below:

DC-District Contact

COC-Child Outreach Coordinator

COF-Child Outreach Facilitator

HS-Head Screener

PSC-Preschool Coordinator

SEA-Special Education Administrator

SCHOOL DISTRICT	CONTACT	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
BARRINGTON	COC Alan Gravell	PO Box 95 283 Country Rd Barrington, RI 02806	247-3160 or 247-3145 x351
BRISTOL/WARREN	COC/PSC Michelle Cordeiro	Oliver School 151 State St. Bristol, R.I. 02809	253-4000 x 5117
BURRILLVILLE	PSC-Jerilyn Caya	915 Steere Farm Rd. Pascoag, R.I. 02859	568-1350 x224
CENTRAL FALLS	COF-Pat Norton	Outreach Registration Center Ella Risk School 949 Dexter St. Central Falls, RI 02863	727-6181
CHARIHO (Charlestown, Hopkinton, Richmond)	COC-Aimee Silva SEA-Jennifer Durkin (same as above)	455 A Switch Rd Wood River Junction, RI 02894	364-1160 x2037
COVENTRY	COC-Barbara Bridge	Administration Bldg. 1675 Flat River Rd. Coventry, RI 02816	822-9400 x249
CRANSTON	Michele Simpson ECC-Colleen Scottsmith	Early Childhood Center 45 Sprague Ave Cranston, RI 02910	270-8587 270-8057
CUMBERLAND	COC - Kathleen Gibney	Cumberland Pre-School B.F.Norton School 364 Broad Cumberland, RI 02864	723-3250
EAST GREENWICH	SORICO COC-Lisa Cooney Kerry Marlin Jackie DiLorenzo		1-860-434-4800 x161 398-1608 398-1620
EAST PROVIDENCE	COC-Donna Patch	Special Services Dept. 80 Burnside Ave. East Providence, RI 02915	433-6216 x6254
EXETER/WEST	SORICO COC Lisa Cooney	930 Nooseneck Hill Rd.	1-860-434-4800x161

GREENWICH	SEA Carmella Farrar	West Greenwich, RI 02817	397-7420
FOSTER	COC-Lori Greenleaf	160 Foster Center Rd. Foster, RI 02825	647-5100
GLOCESTER	DC-Joan Osmanski COC-Maureen Ciotola	West Glocester School 111 Reynolds Rd. Chepachet, RI 02814 Northwest Region	568-4085 647-7560
JAMESTOWN	COC-Gerri Cabral	76 Melrose Ave Jamestown, RI 02835	423-7020 x121
JOHNSTON	COC-Susan Jadosz	Graniteville E.C.Center 6 Collins Ave. Johnston. R.I. 02919	231-8790 x2525
LINCOLN	COC-Kathy McDonald SEA- Maryann Struble	1624 Lonsdale Ave Lincoln, RI 02865	334-7524
LITTLE COMPTON	ECC/COC AnneMarie McAndrews	Newport County Regional	683-3570
MIDDLETOWN	ECC/COC AnneMarie McAndrews	Newport County Regional	683-3570
NARRAGANSETT	SEA-Beth Pinto SORICO COC-Lisa Cooney PSC-Susan Doboszynski	55 Mumford Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882	1-860-434-4800 x161 792-9427
NEW SHOREHAM	SORICO COC- Lisa Cooney DC-Leslie Ryan	Box 249 Block Island, RI 02807	1-860-434-4800 x161 466-5600
NEWPORT	ECC/COC Nichole Cardoza	437 Broadway Newport, R.I. 02840	847-2100 x221
NORTH KINGSTOWN	COC – Mary Nelson PSC – Kenneth Duva	Fishing Cove School Wickford Pt. Rd North Kingstown, RI 02852 N.K. Administration Bldg. 100 Fairway Dr. North Kingstown, R.I. 02852	268-6591 Appts. 268-6579 268-6433
NORTH PROVIDENCE	COC-Leslie DesJarlais	No. Providence Special Education 2240 Mineral Spring Ave. No. Providence, RI 02911	233-1110 x4531
NORTH SMITHFIELD	DC-Rusty Brown COC-Maureen Ciotola	No. Smithfield Pupil Personnel PO Box 72 Slatersville, RI 02876 Northwest Region	769-5492 x215 647-7560
PAWTUCKET	COC MaryAnn Murray Dot Murray (DPT)	Administration Bldg. 286 Main St. Pawtucket, RI 02860	729-6511
PORTSMOUTH	ECC/COC AnneMarie McAndrews	Newport County Regional	683-3570
PROVIDENCE	COC-Mindy Mertz HS-Natalie Salvatore(same as above)	Administration Bldg. 797 Westminster St. Providence, RI 02903	456-9132

SCITUATE	DC-Joan Osmanski	West Glocester Elementary School 111 Reynolds Rd. Chepachet, RI 02814	568-4085
	COC-Maureen Ciotola	Northwest Region	647-7560
SMITHFIELD	COC-Colleen Poyton	49 Farnum Pike Esmond, RI 02917	231-6608
SOUTH KINGSTOWN	SORICO COC-Lisa Cooney PSC-Ruth Gallucci	153 School St. Wakefield, R.I. 02879	1-860-434-4800 x161 360-1224
TIVERTON	ECC/COC AnneMarie McAndrews	Newport County Region	683-3570
WARREN	see Bristol		
WARWICK	COC Kathryn Keenan VOWS Nancy Anderson	Drum Rock Early Childhood Center 575 Centerville Rd. Warwick, R.I. 02886	734-3490
WEST GREENWICH	see Exeter		
WEST WARWICK	COC-Denise DiFranco	10 Harris Ave. West Warwick, RI 02893	822-8432 x1314 Appt. x1348
WESTERLY	COC-Donna Nabb	Families Learning Together Bradford School 15 Church St. Westerly, RI 02808	348-2733
	PSC-Chris Allen	Babcock Hall 15 Highland Ave. Westerly, R.I.02891	315-1538
WOONSOCKET	COC-Mary Beth Wilcox-Ziepniewski	Second Ave. School Second Ave. Woonsocket, RI 02895	767-4844 Appt. 767-4643

COLLABORATIVES

SCHOOL DISTRICT	CONTACT	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
NEWPORT COUNTY REGIONAL Little Compton, Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton	COC- AnnMarie McAndrews ECC	Elmhurst School Portsmouth, RI 02871	683-3570
NORTHWEST REGIONAL Burrillville, Glocester, North Smithfield, Scituate	COC-Maureen Ciotola	Child Outreach Program 23A Theodore Foster Rd. North Scituate, RI 02857	647-7560
SORICO East Greenwich, Exeter/West Greenwich, Narragansett, New Shoreham, South Kingstown	COC-Lisa Cooney Lisa Cooney	646 Camp Ave. North Kingstown, RI 02852	295-2888 x141 1-860-434-4800, x161

Early Childhood Transition Coordination

The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RI College provides support to the state's EI programs on early childhood transition coordination through a contract with the Department of Human Services. The purpose of this project is to develop a system that supports children and their families as they transition from an Early Intervention program to public schools and/or other early care and education programs. For more information, please contact Maureen Whelan at (401) 456-4735 or mwhelan@ric.edu.

Some children who are eligible for Early Intervention Services also will be eligible for preschool special education services when they turn 3 years of age and Early Intervention ends. Listed below are the names of the contact people in each school system who will work with those children and families who will be transitioning to preschool special education.

Local Education Agencies (LEA) – School System Liaisons for Early Intervention Transition

Town/City	Name & Address	Phone/Fax/Email
Barrington	Alan Gravell Barrington School Dept. 283 County Road Barrington, RI 02806	247-3145 (main) 247-3169 (fax) gravella@bpsmail.org
Bristol-Warren	Michelle Cordeiro Oliver Administration Building 151 State Street Bristol, RI 02809	253-4000 Ext: 5117 254-0829 (fax) cordeiroM@bw.k12.ri.us
Burrillville	Jerilyn Caya Steere Farm Elementary 915 Steere Farm Road Pascoag, RI 02859	568-1350 Ext: 224 568-1353 (fax) cayaJ@bsd-ri.net
Central Falls	Dawn Pagliarini Captain Hunt Elementary 12 Kendall Street Central Falls, RI 02863	727-7720 724-0577 (fax) pagliarinid@cfsschools.net
Chariho	Aimee Silva Chariho School Dept. 455 A Switch Road Wood River Junction, RI 02894	364-1160 Ext: 2037 364-1161 (fax) aimee.silva@chariho.k12.ri.us
Coventry	Susan Lyons Administration Building 1675 Flat River Road Coventry, RI 02816	822-9400 Ext: 233 822-9423 (fax) LyonsSusan@coventryschools.net
Cranston	Michele Simpson Cranston Early Childhood Center 45 Sprague Avenue Cranston, RI 02910	270-8057 270-8594 (fax) msimpson@cpsed.net
Cumberland	Kathy Gibney Cumberland Preschool Center c/o BF Norton Elem. School 364 Broad St., Cumberland, RI 02864	722-7610 729-5306 (fax) kathy.gibney@cumberlandschool.org

East Greenwich	Paula Dillon E. Greenwich Special Ed. 111 Peirce Street E. Greenwich, RI 02818	398-1231 886-3205 (fax) pdillon@egsd.net
East Providence	Jane Sylvia Meadowcrest School 60 Bart Drive E. Providence, RI 02915	433-6209 433-6247 (fax) jsylvia@epschools.ri.com
Exeter/West Greenwich	Carmella Farrar Special Ed Department 940 Nooseneck Hill Road West Greenwich, RI 02817	397-7420 (main) 392-0164 (fax) carmella_farrar@ewg.k12.ri.us
Foster Gloucester (Chepachet, Scituate)	Joan Osmanski W. Gloucester Elem. School 111 Reynolds Road Chepachet, RI 02814	568-4085 568-4104 (fax) jjosmanski@yahoo.com
Jamestown	Robert Fricklas 76 Melrose Avenue Jamestown, RI 02835	423-7020 Ext. 106 423-7022 (fax) bfricklas@gmail.com
	Geraldine Cabral Child Outreach Coordinator	423-7020 Ext. 121 423-7022 (fax)
Johnston	Susan Jadosz Graniteville E.C. Center 6 Collins Avenue Johnston, RI 02919	231-8790 Ext. 2525 232-2060 (fax) rid26141@ride.ri.net
Lincoln	Kathy McDonald Lincoln School Dept. 1624 Lonsdale Avenue Lincoln, RI 02865	334-7524 (main) 726-1813 (fax) mcdonaldk@lincolnps.org
Narragansett	Susan Doboszynski Naragansett Spec. Services 55 Mumford Road Naragansett, RI 02882	792-9427 792-9424 (fax) sdoboszy@narragansett.k12.ri.us
Newport	Nichole Cardoza Newport Public Schools 437 Broadway Newport, RI 02840	847-2100 Ext. 221 848-5973 (fax) rid05991@ride.ri.net
Newport County Regional (Little Compton,	Ann Marie McAndrews Coordinator of Preschool	683-3570 (main) 683-3372 (fax) amcandrews@mpsri.net

Middletown,
Portsmouth,
Tiverton)

Ann Marie Denelle
Early Intervention SW

683-3570 (main)
683-3372 (fax)
adenelle@mpsri.net

Regional Special Ed.
Elmhurst School
1 Frank Coelho Drive
Portsmouth, RI 02871

New Shoreham (Block Island)	William Anderson P.O. Box 1890 Block Island, RI 02807	466-7732 (main) 466-5610 (fax) wanderson@bi.k12.ri.us
North Kingstown	Kenny Duva North Kingstown School Dept. 100 Fairway Drive North Kingstown, RI 02852	268-6433 268-6434 (fax) kenny_duva@nksd.net
North Providence	Leslie DesJarlais N. Providence School Department 2240 Mineral Spring Avenue No. Providence, RI 02911	233-1100 Ext. 4531 231-8486 (fax) LDJ215@aol.com
North Smithfield	Joseph Brown North Smithfield School Dept. 83 Greene Street P.O. Box 72 Slatersville, RI 02876	769-5492 Ext: 215 765-8764 (fax) rbrown@nspis.us
Pawtucket	Dennise Delarosa Special Education Office Park Place P.O. Box 388 Pawtucket, RI 02862	729-6391 729-6549 (fax) delarosad@psdri.net
Providence	Mindy Mertz <i>Special Education Administrator/Pre-K Services</i> Providence School Dept. 797 Westminster Street Providence, RI 02903	456-9132 278-2819 (fax) mindy.mertz@ppsd.org
	Joseph Polhemus Child Outreach Team I Pleasant View School 35 Obediah Brown Road Providence, RI 02908	456-9323 453-8656 (fax) joseph.polhemus@ppsd.org
	Christine Shreve Child Outreach Team II Leviton Annex School 65 Greenwich Street Providence, RI 02907	456-9469 Ext: 238 453-8611 (fax) christine.shreve@ppsd.org
	Hugo Gonzalez Child Outreach Team (Bilingual) Leviton Annex School	453-8606 Ext: 234 453-8656 (fax) hugo.gonzalez@ppsd.org

	65 Greenwich Street	456-9132
Scituate	See Foster/Glocester	
Smithfield	Colleen Poyton Smithfield Public Schools 49 Farnum Pike Esmond, RI 02917	231-6608 232-1580 (fax) cpoyton@smithfield-ps.org
South Kingston	Ruth Gallucci 153 School Street Wakefield, RI 02879	360-1224 360-1210 (fax) rgallucci@skschools.net
Tiverton	See Newport County Regional	
Warren	See Bristol	
Warwick	Kathryn Kennen Drum Rock Elementary School 575 Centerville Road Warwick, RI 02886	734-3490 734-3493 kennank@warwickschools.org
Westerly	Christina Allen Babcock Hall 15 Highland Avenue Westerly, RI 02891	315-1532 (main) 315-1545 (fax) callen@westerly.k12.ri.us
West Greenwich	See Exeter	
West Warwick	Doreen Mercurio W.Warwick Special Ed. Dept. 10 Harris Avenue West Warwick, RI 02893	822-8432 Ext: 1346 823-8390 (fax) dmercurio@westwarwickpublicschools.org
	Denise DiFranco (same as above)	822-8432 Ext: 1314 823-8390 (fax) ddifranco@westwarwickpublicschools.org
Woonsocket	Mary Ziepniewski Feinstein Learning Academy/ 2nd Ave School 196 2nd Ave Woonsocket, RI 02895	767-4643 767-4846 (Fax) rid24222@ride.ri.net cottagerental@hotmail.com

The Children's Network

620 Potters Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
223-0392
www.meetingstreet.org

The Children's Network is a collaborative partnership that was formed to provide comprehensive services for children of all abilities, ages 3 to pre-kindergarten, and their families at specific childcare facilities in Providence.

The Network is a service of Meeting Street School in partnership with Federal Hill House Association, The Genesis Center, John Hope Settlement House, West End Community Center, Beautiful Beginnings, and other family childcare providers. The Children's Network offers mental health services, health and dental care, social services, and educational programs at no cost to families. The Children's Network brings services directly to children, families, and teachers at the partner childcare centers, minimizing transportation and scheduling issues. Through the Network, families have access to an education coordinator, health consultant, mental health specialist, nutritionist and family advocate. The ultimate goal of all these services is to ensure the children are prepared to enroll and succeed in kindergarten.

Child Opportunity Zone Family Centers

Rhode Island's Child Opportunity Zones (COZs) are school-linked centers that bring schools, families, and communities together to promote success in school for all children and youth. COZs are welcoming places in or near schools where families can participate in programs and receive information, support, services and referrals. Each COZ is unique and bases its programs on the needs and resources of its schools and community.

Child Opportunity Zones (COZs) help families get before- and after-school childcare services, education enrichment, youth development, adult education, parenting education and support, preventive health and safety information, and health screening and referrals.

For more information in your community, visit The Rhode Island Department of Education website at www.ride.ri.gov and follow the *Before and After School* link.

Early Head Start and Head Start

Early Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive child development services to families with children under 3 and to pregnant women. The purpose of Early Head Start is to enhance children's development, enable parents to be better caregivers and teachers to their children, and to help parents meet their own goals, including that of economic independence.

Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive child development services to preschool children ages 3-5 and social services for their families. Specific services for children in Head Start focus on: education, social and emotional development, physical and mental health, and nutrition.

Contact RI Parent Information Network at 727-4144 for information on Early Head Start or Head Start in your area.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

Supported by RIPIN
727-4144 or (800) 464-3399 – toll free in RI only

HIPPY is a home visiting program for parents of children 3-5 years of age. It provides support for the development of school readiness skills and gives parents opportunities to meet other parents with children of the same age. *HIPPY* is in 4 communities: Central Falls, Cranston, Johnston, and Pawtucket. There is no fee for participation.

Options for Working Families

www.optionsforworkingfamilies.org

Options for Working Families helps parents looking for childcare. This organization has a statewide listing of licensed childcare centers, family childcare homes, nursery schools, summer camps, and before and after school care programs.



RI Department of Human Services

www.dhs.ri.gov

Gary D. Alexander, Director
Donald L. Carcieri, Governor of RI

6/09