



How To Request an Evaluation (Birth to 3)

You can request for your child to receive an evaluation through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP). The AzEIP provides services for infants and toddlers, from birth to three years of age, who appear to have delays or established conditions. If you're concerned about your child, requesting an evaluation is easy, and free.

1. Make a Referral

To see if your child is eligible for the AzEIP, you, or a professional, need to fill out the [application](#) on the AzEIP website. It takes just a few minutes. You can help a friend or loved one by filling out the form for them as a "referring adult".

2. Initiating the Process

When your child is referred to AzEIP, whether by you or a professional or another trusted adult, a Service Coordinator will call you within two days to discuss information about scheduling an initial evaluation, potential services, and the eligibility process. If your family is interested, arrangements are made to begin the Initial Planning Process (IPP).

3. The Initial Planning Process (IPP)

Within ten days of the referral, a Service Coordinator will meet with you to discuss the Initial Planning Process (IPP). This process involves evaluating your child, determining eligibility, and developing the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) for those who qualify after the evaluation process.

4. The Screenings

If there are delays without established conditions (for example, a speech delay but no official medical or other diagnosis), the Service Coordinator will use a screening tool to identify concerns in physical, cognitive, language/communication, social/emotional, and adaptive self-help categories. In many cases, a parent or trusted caregiver will also complete an assessment of the child on paper. Based on the results, your child will either be referred for an evaluation or confirmed as ineligible for AzEIP services at that time. If there's an established condition or a significant delay, you'll be contacted to schedule a home visit with two evaluators for further assessments. Please note, many families are initially denied after a screening, but you can request another screening usually within 6

months, as many times as needed. It does happen that a child doesn't qualify at say 18 months, but then when screened at say 30 months, now has delays significant enough to qualify for interventions or therapy services.

5. Next Steps

If your child is eligible for AzEIP, the Child and Family Assessment will be completed. Within forty-five days of the referral, the initial Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed. This plan is a collaborative effort involving you, your family members, service coordinators, and others to set developmental goals for your child. This plan essentially outlines all the types of services, length of time, and details for the Arizona Early Intervention Program to begin helping your child. In nearly all cases, the services are free of charge, but the Service Coordinator can explain more. The IFSP will be regularly reviewed every six months, or sooner if you request, and annually, until the child is three. If your child does qualify for Early Intervention services, then a few months before your child turns 3, you will have a "transition plan" meeting for getting your child evaluated at the school district, who is obligated to provide services for students with special needs from 3+. These services are regardless if your child is enrolled in a private preschool or not. In some cases, your child can even qualify for a state funded developmental preschool after age 3 (sometimes called "PANDAS").

More Resources:

[Families | Arizona Department of Economic Security](#)

[Part C: Early Intervention Services for Children with Developmental Delays](#)

[Department of Economic Security/Arizona Early Intervention Program \(DES/AzEIP\) – Raising Special Kids.](#)

[Your Child Was Determined Eligible for Arizona Early Intervention Program – Raising Special Kids](#)

[AZ Early Intervention Program - NRTA](#)