

Early Intervention Process



Concern & Observation

Your child may not be meeting milestones (speech, motor, social-emotional, etc.). Trust your instincts; don't wait!



Referral

Anyone (parent, doctor, daycare, teacher) can ask for help if a child from birth to age 3 may have delays. In Kane County, contact **DayOne PACT / Child & Family Connections #4**, 1551 E Fabyan Pkwy, Geneva, IL 60134 | Phone: 630-879-2277



Eligibility Evaluation & Assessment

After the referral is made, the CFC/ DayOne PACT will set up an assessment to see if your child can get Early Intervention services (for children under 3). If your child qualifies, you'll work together to make a plan (IFSP) that lists your child's goals, services, and supports.



Receive Early Intervention Services

Services may include help coordinating care, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, mental and social-emotional support, and more. These usually happen at home or in places your child already spends time. Early Intervention will also help you get ready for school services before your child turns 3.

Find Support in Kane County

Check out our website and the AOK Family Resource Guide



KaneHealth.com/AOK | Resource Guide

About This Brochure

This brochure was created by caregivers of the Kane County community who understand firsthand the joys, questions, and challenges that can come with early intervention.

It was made by caregivers, for families – with the hope of offering guidance, reassurance, and practical information in a way that feels supportive and easy to understand.

As families who have walked this path ourselves, we designed this resource to share what we've learned, highlight available supports, and remind you that you are not alone.

Our goal is to empower you with knowledge, connect you to helpful services, and provide encouragement every step of the way.



Stronger from the Start

A Guide for Caregivers by Caregivers



What is Early Intervention (EI)?

- EI supports families with children birth to age 3 who have developmental delays or diagnosed conditions.
- Services take place in everyday routines—meals, play, bedtime, and family activities.
- EI partners with parents to help children learn, grow, and reach important developmental milestones.
- No doctor referral needed.

Word Bank

- **Early Intervention:** A state program that helps babies and toddlers (birth to 3 years old) who have delays or disabilities learn and grow through therapies and supports.
- **Child & Family Connections (CFC):** The local office that helps families get started with Early Intervention. In Kane County, this is DayOne PACT / CFC #4. They take referrals, schedule evaluations, and help families get services.
- **Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP):** A written plan created with your family and your EI team. It lists your child's goals, the services you'll receive, and how often they'll happen.
- **Milestones:** the everyday skills your child learns as they grow—like rolling over, saying words, or playing with others. They help families and Early Intervention providers see how your child is developing and celebrate progress, while also spotting if extra support might help.

Parent Testimonial

"Our experience with early intervention services was wonderful. The caring and knowledgeable team supported our child's growth every step of the way, helping them reach important milestones and giving our family confidence and encouragement throughout the process. We truly believe every child deserves the tools and support they need to reach their full potential."

Early Intervention Fast Facts

- **Brain Growth:** Most brain growth, about 80%, happens in the first few years of life.
- **Importance of Starting Early:** Babies' and toddlers' brains are most ready to learn during the first three years, so early support makes a bigger difference.
- **Long-Term Benefits:** Studies shared through the U.S. Department of Education show that early intervention can improve a child's language, learning, and social skills over time.
- **Everyday Experiences Matter:** Research from trusted early childhood groups shows that simple, positive interactions at home—like talking, playing, and routines—help build strong brain connections.

Track Your Child's Milestones: CDC's Milestone Moments

Track your child's growth, learn what to expect, and celebrate milestones along the way!

Visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/act-early/milestones/index.html>



Know Your Rights in EI

- As a parent, you are your child's most important advocate. Under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C, you have the right to be fully involved and informed every step of the way.
- You have the right to:
 - Be involved in every decision about your child's evaluations, goals, and services.
 - Receive a free evaluation to determine eligibility for Early Intervention.
 - Help develop your child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
 - Receive information in your preferred language and format.
 - Review your child's records and request corrections if something is inaccurate.
 - Consent to or decline any service without fear of penalty.
 - Have your child's personal information kept private and confidential.
 - Ask questions, share concerns, or file a grievance at any time.
- If you have questions or concerns:
 - Contact your Service Coordinator first.
 - If the concern is not resolved, contact the Program Manager.
- Families always have the right to file a formal grievance.
 - A grievance may be especially impactful when there are broader issues, such as ongoing service shortages or delays.
- Knowing your rights helps you advocate confidently for your child and family.

