



U.S. Office of Special  
Education Programs



# EARLY INTERVENTION (EI) & IFSPS HOW TO ACCESS EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES



# Who are we?

- **We are Arkansas' Parent Training and Information Center**
- **We are a statewide organization with regional mentors who assist parents**
- **We are funded by The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), grants, and private donations.**

# Parent Training & Information Centers

## Serve

Serve families of children from birth to age 26 with disabilities

## Help

Help families and other agencies including schools understand the benefits of IDEA and Section 504

## Provide

Provide a variety of free services including individual support, workshops, publications, community events, etc.

## Work

Work together with home, school and community stakeholders to improve outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities

**SHELBY  
KNIGHT,  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**



# TCFEF Staff

Teamwork  
makes the  
dream work

Staff Members  
– The Center  
for Exceptional  
Families

# Early Intervention

Early Intervention (EI) is the services and supports that are available to babies and young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families until age 3. These supports may include speech therapy, occupational therapy, developmental therapy, physical therapy, etc.

Early Intervention is under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) with The Department of Human Services.

The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) outlines the supports and EI services that your child and your family may receive.

# Where is EI Available?

Early Intervention programs are available in every state and territory. These publicly funded programs provide services for free here in Arkansas.

These services can be provided in different settings including at home, in private daycares, in public funded daycares, etc.

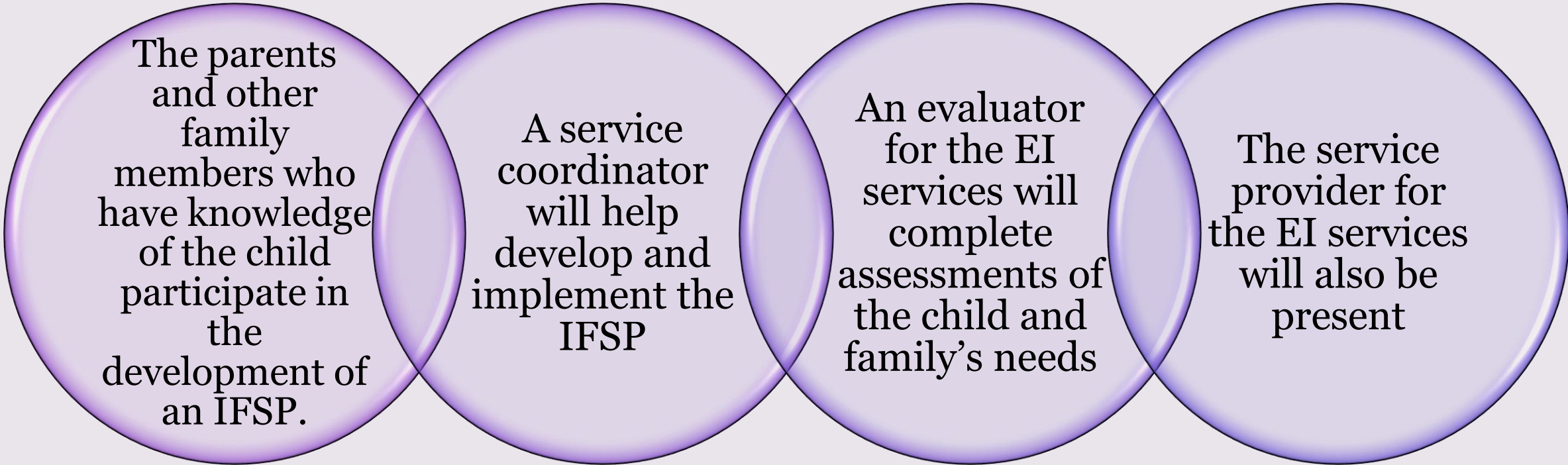


- Eligibility for EI services is based on an evaluation of your child's skills and abilities. If you, or your child's doctor, or other care provider is concerned about your child's development, ask to be connected to Arkansas' Early Intervention Program. Here in Arkansas, it is First Connections. A doctor's referral is not necessary to access services.
- [First Connections in Little Rock, AR \(firstconnectionsar.org\)](http://firstconnectionsar.org)
- For initial eligibility determination infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families participate in a comprehensive, multidisciplinary child and family evaluation and assessment process.

# Eligibility



# Who develops an IFSP?



The parents and other family members who have knowledge of the child participate in the development of an IFSP.

A service coordinator will help develop and implement the IFSP

An evaluator for the EI services will complete assessments of the child and family's needs

The service provider for the EI services will also be present



# What is in an IFSP?

- Family input
- The present levels of function and needs of your child
- Results or outcomes expected
- The EI services your child may receive
- When, where, and how long the EI services will be provided
- The process for your child to transition out of EI services into public school or other programs

# Next steps

If you want to know what happens after your child transitions from an IFSP to public school services:

Please join us for our Transition to Kindergarten Presentation!

Some additional resources:

Arkansas Home Visiting Network | Stronger Families. Brighter Futures.  
([arhomevisiting.org](http://arhomevisiting.org))

Home | AR Better Beginnings

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Offices - Learning Services - Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC)

# Thank you!

## Contact us:



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