



Welcome to SoonerStart Early Intervention...

Supporting families as they learn to promote development in their infants and toddlers (birth to 3) who have developmental delays or other health conditions

What is SoonerStart Early Intervention?

SoonerStart is a program designed to help parents, other caregivers and children with developmental delays gain the knowledge and confidence they need to be successful in life. Through visits with early intervention professionals, the family receives information, support, guidance and consultation about improving the child's quality of life and the family's. It's a program that can be provided in the home, childcare center, the park or other natural settings in the community.

- It's a collaboration among a child's parents, caregivers, childcare providers, early intervention professionals and others
- It's a process that helps the adults in a child's life learn to help the child develop
- It's been proven to make a family's quality of life better and help adults be more confident in their caregiving abilities
- It's a service provided to the entire family — not just the child!

What is it not?

- An interventionist bringing a bag of toys and playing with a child while the parent does something else
- A program that addresses only children's issues
- A program with no specific goals or objectives
- A person telling a family what to do without asking for input

What is the key to success in SoonerStart Early Intervention?

Partnering with families. Early intervention visits offer adults support so that intervention can happen all day, every day — not just when the professional is present. SoonerStart professionals provide emotional support, offer guidance about child development, point families to other community resources, and ensure child and family goals are met. It's a family-centered process that's customized to your individual needs!

How does it work?

You might have expected early intervention visits to focus only on your child, but early intervention's focus is actually on the adults in the child's life. Why does this work? Because children learn from the interactions and other opportunities that occur in everyday life. You are your child's greatest teacher, and you have the opportunity to work with them throughout the day, every day. We will provide information and support you need to make the most of "teachable moments" with your child. This way, your child receives quality intervention all the time.

Some information derived from Tennessee Early Intervention System/Siskin Children's Institute, Chattanooga TN