How Early Intervention Works

Developmental Support Birth - 3 years old

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1. Parent, child care provider, pediatrician or some other referral source is concerned infant or toddler has a developmental delay or disability
2. Family informed of how Early Intervention can help
3. Child referred to Early Intervention program

4. Initial Service Coordinator explains family's rights
5. Reviews available evaluators

6. Evaluator meets with child and family
7. Assesses child's cognitive, physical, communication, social/emotional and adaptive development
8. Writes an evaluation report
9. Determines if child's needs qualify for Early Intervention

10. Family and Initial Service Coordinator meet
11. Family says what they hope to get out of Early Intervention and set goals
12. Together they develop a plan for specific services

13. Services begin
14. Plan is reviewed every six months
15. Updated evaluation is done every year
16. After child turns 3, if services are still needed they are referred to Preschool Special Education or other early childhood services

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150,000 New York children ages 0 - 5 years are eligible for Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education services.

Neural circuits that create the foundation for learning, behavior and health are most changeable during the first years of life.

85% of brain development occurs before children start school.

Services for children with developmental delays improve outcomes for social relationships, knowledge & skills and their ability to meet basic self-care needs.

64 - 74% of children who receive Early Intervention make greater than expected growth.