



What is Early Intervention?

Early Intervention is a program for children under the age of 3 that are demonstrating developmental concerns. If your child is not crawling, walking, or speaking at the appropriate chronological times, you can contact Early Intervention. A case coordinator will be in touch with you to discuss your concerns and discuss having your child evaluated. If your child is found to be eligible for services, Early Intervention provides the following therapies:

Developmental Instruction (DI) - A DI's job is to create learning activities that promote the child's acquisition of skills in a variety of developmental areas. DI therapists do not address one specific area of functioning but instead try to promote all skills including: cognition, language and communication, social-emotional functioning and behavior, gross and fine motor skills as well as self-help skills via play based interactions as well as environmental modifications. In other words a DIs are a bit like a "jacks of all trades" and they focus on a little bit of everything.

Occupational Therapy (OT) - Occupational therapists focus on developing fine motor skills so children can grasp and release toys and develop good handwriting skill, improving eye-hand coordination, and mastering basic life skills such as getting dressed, brushing teeth, and self-feeding.

Physical Therapy (PT) - Physical therapists help children learn to crawl so they can move from place to place, learn to sit so they can play on the floor, improve balance so they can walk without falling, get stronger so they can keep up with their friends, and hold, explore, and play with toys of different sizes, shapes, and weights.

Speech Therapy - Unlike DIs, pediatric speech language therapists (SLP's) focus on and have an in-depth specialization in improving children's communication skills. SLP's focus on developing children's receptive and expressive communication.

How do I contact Early Intervention?

You can contact Early Intervention at (888) 653-4463. You can also visit their website for more information at <https://nj.gov/health/fhs/eis/index.shtml>.

What happens once my student ages out of Early Intervention at age 3?

Shortly before your child turns 3, Early Intervention will notify the school district that you reside in that your child will be aging out. Once the school district receives this notification, a meeting will be scheduled with the school's Child Study Team (CST) to discuss the concerns about your child and whether it is felt that he/she needs to be evaluated. If it is decided he/she is evaluated and found to be eligible for special education, your child can receive special education and related services in school such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. These things are all timed to happen so that a program at the school can be in place for when your child turns 3 to prevent any lapses in services.

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SUMMER READING FUN

Rockaway Borough Public Library and Wharton Borough Public Library both will soon kick off their Summer Reading Program called "Oceans of Possibilities."

Rockaway Borough Public Library (rblibrary.org): Starting Monday, June 20th, stop in to register, pick up a reading log plus receive tickets to enter to win exciting prizes! Five tickets given upon sign-up; earn more for each program you attend. Complete all reading requirements and return your log in August for a prize! Plus you'll receive more tickets for our grand prizes!! Reading requirements: Children ages up to 8 years old - read 10 books. Children 9 and up - read 4 books. (for children up to the age of 18).

Adults: Beginning Monday, June 20th, receive a ticket for each time you check out books. Use the tickets to enter to win any of our grand prizes at the end of the Summer Reading Program (SRP) period. Ticketed grand prizes will be awarded through random drawing at the end of the SRP.

SUPER SUMMER SIGN UP SATURDAY! If you did not sign up during the previous week go in between 10am-2pm on Saturday June 25th! You will receive an "Oceans of Possibilities" coloring poster!

Wharton Public Library (whartonlibrary.org): Check out the Wharton Library's website for updates on activities for the summer. The "Oceans of Possibilities" reading program will begin June 23 with the finale on August 19, 2022. Go in to register! This program is an incentive for children to track reading over the summer and to encourage summer learning. Throughout the summer programs such as storytime, special performances, family events as well as arts and crafts will be available.

Adult programs are available and free to community members as well all year long.

Community Resources!

Inclusive Education Webinar: June 7, 2022 @ 7:00PM. Learn about the research findings on inclusive education, the importance and value of inclusive education and Dr. Lavani's journey with her daughter with Down syndrome and how she was included in the general education throughout her educational career. See: <https://spanadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2-Webinars-Inclusive-Education-May-and-June-2022.pdf>

Circle Time For Families

Parent Circles are monthly discussion forums hosted at various times for families and professionals. Parents have an opportunity to learn about child development resources to support their child and understand more about inclusion in childcare and preschool programs. Contact: childcare@spanadvocacy.org

Positive Solutions for Families

This is a 6-part training series to help families and those working with families learn social emotional support for home use. These modules offer professional tips on discussion with families. To request a training contact Donna Milanowycz at dmilanowycz@spanadvocacy.org or en Espanol contact fochoa@spanadvocacy.org



Parenting the "NHA" Way: Counseling Support Services, LLC invites parents, caregivers, and guardians to learn and discuss The Nurtured Heart Approach & other strategies for supporting children. Hosted by Taharka Sankara, MSW, LCSW. Join our monthly virtual session on Zoom, every 2nd Wednesday of each month. 6- 7 PM . Registration is free but required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parenting-the-nha-way-tickets-115514138899>

Family Support Group: Sponsored by Community Access Unlimited and FACT. Meetings and presentations will include information about services, DDD, important timelines, and more. Discussion based meetings will focus on needs as a parent/caregiver, including topics of health and wellness, mental well-being, coping skills, and more. You may choose to attend discussion based meetings, meetings with presentations, or both. Talk and connect with families who share similar experiences. Meetings are bi-weekly, 6 PM on Thursdays. https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUuDuCprTMpHNIfeKXIFfV_VDxLnc9s6c-6

Youth Emotional Support Group: Ages 10-12. Wednesdays, 5-6 PM virtual. Clients will learn positive coping skills, process and explore peer relations, learn and manage frustrations, gain support, and normalize challenges they are facing. For more information email or call today: services@newbridge.org or 973-316-9333.

Are you ready to have some fun? At PEAK, volunteers give parents the resources to involve these extraordinary children in the community which will foster lifelong social skills and experiences to enhance their lives. PEAK also provides that involvement in a safe as well as social environment. For more information, contact info@peakgroup.org.

PEAK programs include:

Therapeutic riding: Enjoy the beautiful outdoors at Freedom Horse on a therapeutic ride. 6/12 and 6/26, 11-11:30 AM. \$30. signup: dawn@peakgroup.org.

PEAK kickball: Introduces the participants to the fundamentals of the exciting game of kickball. Sundays 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, 6/26, 12 PM at Dan Jordan Park, Flanders, NJ. Cost: \$70. For more information: margari-ta@peakgroup.org. Sign up: [register/communitypass.net/mountolive/](https://communitypass.net/mountolive/)

I&RS in a Snapshot

(INTERVENE EARLY)

I&RS stands for Intervention and Referral Services. School districts are required to establish and implement interventions, designed to assist students who are experiencing significant learning or behavioral difficulties in the general education program.

The I&RS committee can be made up of any combination of teachers, related service providers, the school Principal, basic skills teachers, CST members, and/or school counselor.

An I&RS program can target its resources to the identification and amelioration of problems at the earliest possible stages.

They can assist by addressing both academic and social/emotional concerns of individual students including:

- Recommendations**
- Interventions/strategies**
- Materials/resources**

A specific, written plan of action is put into place to be implemented and reviewed at specific times.

Parents/guardians are included in the process and are considered implementers of selected strategies contained in the I&RS action plan.

Specific goals are defined for student improvement and monitored through data collections on an ongoing basis to determine progress.

<https://www.state.nj.us/education/students/irs/process.pdf>



Shared Services Child Study Team

Wharton Borough Schools
973-361-3010

Mine Hill Township School (CAS)
973-366-0590

Rockaway Borough Schools
973-625-8601



The Shared Services Child Study Team has made it a goal to increase communication and Special Education knowledge with parents as well as teachers and administration within the three school districts. As part of this goal, you will now be receiving newsletters from the team three times a year filled with information on special education practices/law, community resources, special needs tips, etc. We hope you find this helpful!

Leslie Mozulay, LDTC

Stephanie Dzikowski, LDTC

Stacy McCoy, School Psychologist

Brooke Hanenberg, School Psychologist

Armi Clancy, School Social Worker

Get to Know Your CST

Marie Giantomasi has served as a consultant to the shared services Child Study Team since 2010. Prior to taking on this challenge, Marie was a teacher and administrator in Newark, NJ and an assistant principal and director of special services for Morris Hills Regional. During her time as a shared services consultant, she is most proud of the many special education programs she has helped to implement in the shared services districts enabling students with special needs to attend school in their home school districts. Marie loves spending time at the beach with her husband, children and especially her two grandsons. She enjoys reading, binge watching television, and traveling. Her time as the shared services special education consultant has been the most rewarding of her career.



MARIE GIANTOMASI
Shared Services CST Consultant