



Early Intervention and Childhood Special Education Services

1. **Transition Age:**

- **Begins at 2 years, 9 months:** At this age, children who may have developmental delays or disabilities start receiving support through the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP).
- **IEP must be developed by 3 years:** An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is a personalized plan designed to meet a child's specific needs. By the time a child turns 3, if they qualify for ongoing support due to a disability or developmental delay, an IEP must be created to outline educational goals and services needed.

2. **Eligibility Categories:**

- **Preschool Severe Delay:** This category includes children who show significant delays in multiple areas of development, such as motor skills, communication, social interaction, and cognitive abilities.
- **Developmental Delay:** Children who do not meet developmental milestones within the expected timeframes may qualify under this category. It covers delays in areas like speech, motor skills, cognitive abilities, and social-emotional development.
- **Vision Impairment:** Children with vision problems that cannot be corrected with glasses or medical treatment may qualify. This includes conditions like partial or total blindness.
- **Hearing Impairment:** Children with hearing difficulties, ranging from mild to profound hearing loss, may qualify. They may need interventions such as hearing aids or assistive technology.
- **Speech and Language Impairment:** Children with difficulties with speech sounds, language comprehension, or communication skills may qualify. This category includes conditions like stuttering, articulation disorders, and language delays.

3. **Responsible Party:**

- **AzEIP:** This program is responsible for providing initial support and services to eligible children and their families. AzEIP coordinates assessments, develops the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and connects families with early intervention services.
- **Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Team:** Composed of professionals and family members, this team collaborates to create a personalized plan for each child receiving early intervention services. The IFSP outlines goals, services, and supports tailored to meet the child's developmental needs.

4. Outcome:

- **Family Driven:** Initially, the focus is on supporting the family in promoting the child's development within their everyday routines and activities. The IFSP emphasizes family involvement and sets goals to enhance the child's skills across different areas.
- **Educationally based plan:** As the child approaches school age, typically by age 3, the focus shifts to preparing the child for formal education. The IEP outlines specialized instruction, accommodations, and related services needed to support the child's educational progress within a structured school setting.

5. Funding:

- **IDEA Part C:** This federal program, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provides financial support for early intervention services.
- It ensures that eligible children receive the necessary interventions and support to enhance their development and prepare them for school.

Resource:

[ADE: Navigating the School System: Early Intervention Services and Early Childhood Special Education Services; Page 37](#)