



# EARLY START ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (under age 3)

Effective June 30, 2022



**A delay of 25% in ONE or more developmental areas.**



## Areas of development

**Social-** emotions, interacting with others

**Adaptive-** daily activities such as dressing

**Physical-** large and small movements

**Communication** (Receptive and Expressive) - pre-speech and language

**Cognitive-** thinking and problem solving

CCR TITLE 17, CH 2, SECTION 52022

**OR**

## APPLY FOR EARLY START SERVICES

**Parents** may apply online by visiting [www.elarc.org](http://www.elarc.org)

**Other:** Medical professionals and those from other agencies may fax a referral to the Early Start Program. Referrals should include available birth/medical records, developmental information, and family contact information.



## High Risk Factors

**Children with TWO or more medical factors that place them at risk for a developmental disability. Including:**

- Prematurity of < 32 weeks gestation and/or low birth weight
- Assisted ventilation of >48 hours during the first 28 days of life
- Prenatal substance exposure

The parent of an infant or toddler is a person with a developmental disability and the infant or toddler requires early intervention services based on evaluation and assessment.

CCR TITLE 17, CH 2, SECTION 52022

**OR**



## Established Risk Condition

Children with a condition of known etiology with a high probability of resulting in developmental delay; such as Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

CCR TITLE 17, CH 2, SECTION 52022

### ELARC Early Start Program

Telephone: (626) 299-4777 or (626) 299-4691 Fax: (626) 299-4798 | ELARC PO Box 7916, Alhambra, CA 91802-7916

For more information, visit [www.elarc.org](http://www.elarc.org) or [www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart](http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart)



# ELARC Early Start Program Facts (under age 3) *effective June 30, 2022*

The Early Start Program is California's response to federal legislation ensuring that Early Start services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families are provided in a coordinated, family-centered system of services that are available statewide.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** (CCR TITLE 17, CH 2, SECTION 52022)

Infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months may be eligible for Early Start services if, through documented evaluation and assessment, they meet one of the criteria listed below:

**DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY:** A DELAY OF 25% OR MORE IN ONE OR MORE DEVELOPMENTAL AREAS INCLUDING:

\*Cognitive \*Communication (Receptive & Expressive) \*Social or Emotional \* Adaptive \*Physical and Motor including vision & hearing

**ESTABLISHED RISK**

**CONDITION:** A condition of known etiology, with a high probability of resulting in developmental delay= such as Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, or Fatal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

**HIGH RISK FACTORS:** Children with 2 or more medical factors that place them at risk for a developmental disability including:

- Prematurity of less than 32 weeks gestation and/or low birth weight of less than 1500 grams.
- Assisted ventilation for 48 hours or longer during the first 28 days of life.
- Small for gestational age: below the third percentile on the National Center for Health Statistics growth charts.
- Asphyxia neonatorum associated with a five minute Apgar score of 0 to 5.
- Severe and persistent metabolic abnormality, including but not limited to hypoglycemia, acidemia, and hyperbilirubinemia in excess of the usual exchange transfusion level.
- Neonatal seizures or nonfebrile seizures during the first three years of life.
- Central nervous system lesion or abnormality.
- Central nervous system infection.
- Biomedical insult including, but not limited to, injury, accident or illness which may seriously or permanently affect developmental outcome.
- Multiple congenital anomalies or genetic disorders which may affect developmental outcome.
- Prenatal exposure to known teratogens.
- Prenatal substance exposure, positive infant neonatal toxicology screen or symptomatic neonatal toxicity or withdrawal.
- Clinically significant failure to thrive (weight persistently below the 3% for age on standard growth charts or less than 85% of the ideal weight for age and/or acute weight loss or failure to gain weight with the loss of 2 or more major % on the growth curve).
- Persistent hypotonia or hypertonia, beyond that otherwise associated with a known diagnostic condition.

High Risk for developmental disability also exists when a multidisciplinary team determines that the parent of an infant or toddler is a person with a developmental disability and the infant or toddler requires early start services based on evaluation and assessment.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE** Early Start services are intended to support a child's development. Early Start services, as identified on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), are recommended based on a child's individual needs and the family's concerns, priorities, and resources as well as Part C regulations. Services may include:

- \*Service Coordination
- \*Infant education program
- \*Medical services for diagnosis and evaluation
- \*Speech and language services
- \*Psychological services
- \*Assistive technology
- \*Occupational therapy services
- \*Audiology services
- \*Transitional support to local education agency
- \*Physical therapy services
- \*Counseling

**SERVICE DELIVERY** Early Start services can be provided by or coordinated by regional centers, school districts, or county offices of education. Services are to be provided in the child's natural environment to the maximum extent appropriate.

**PAYMENT FOR SERVICES** Regional centers are required to access all sources of funding including: medical insurance, Medi-Cal, California Children's Services, public school district programs, and community agencies. An Annual Family Program Fee may be assessed in some circumstances.

**APPLY** for Early Start Services.  
**Parents** may apply online by visiting [www.elarc.org](http://www.elarc.org).

**Other:** Medical professionals and those from other agencies may fax a referral to the Early Start Program. Referrals should include available birth/medical records, developmental information, and family contact information.

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