



PURCHASE OF SERVICE GUIDELINE

01/31/2011	PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES <u>EARLY INTERVENTION (0-3)</u>	FINAL
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I. DEFINITION

Per Trailer Bill Language (ABX4 9, Chapter 9, Statutes of 2009), Government Code section 95020 and Welfare and Institutions Code section 4685 were amended to require consideration of the purchase of neighborhood preschool services and needed qualified personnel, in lieu of infant development programs.

Preschool services may be purchased for children less than three years of age with a developmental disability or a developmental delay to:

- Enhance skills in the areas of communication and social/emotional development.
- Provide opportunities to participate in a structured educational environment with peers.
- Provide opportunities to generalize skills within a small group setting.
- Prepare the child for entry into a public school program.

Regional Center will promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in all aspects of typical preschool settings and provide necessary identified supports. Preschool services are not intended to replace other individualized early intervention services that the child may need.

II. CRITERIA

The regional center may purchase a preschool program upon

recommendation of a regional center consultant or multidisciplinary team if the child meets all of the following criteria:

- The Individualized Family Service Planning (IFSP) team agrees that a specific outcome(s) on the child's IFSP can be met in a typical preschool environment.
- The parent(s) have explored other community resources such as Mommy and Me programs, city parks and recreation departments, First Five funded programs, etc.; and the identified outcome cannot be met through these resources.

Services and supports may be purchased until the child reaches three years of age. At age three, preschool services are considered educational and are the responsibility of the local school district.

III. AMOUNT OF SERVICE

The hours and the number of days per week which are recommended for the child will be determined by the needs and outcomes identified for the child, the presence of medical and/or physical concerns, and the transportation resources of the family. Preschool services may be provided two to three half-day sessions per week.

IV. ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

Preschool services are not intended to replace the parent's responsibility to provide day care for a child when the parent is working or in a school/vocational program. In addition, preschool services do not replace parental responsibility to provide typical socialization opportunities for the child in their home, neighborhood and community.

Generic and community services must be explored and secured prior to ELARC's purchase of preschool services. Generic or community resources include but are not limited to community Mommy and Me Programs, First 5 LA funded Programs, city Parks and Recreation Departments, etc.

V. PROCESS FOR PURCHASE OF SERVICE

- A. For a new service request: Service coordinator will request case review by OT/PT/SLP consultant for program planning and recommendations.
- B. For on-going service continuation: Service coordinator will request case review by OT/PT/SLP consultant for program planning and recommendations based on new/current information and reports.
- C. Upon recommendation of Preschool services, the service coordinator will locate a vendor available to provide services as recommended.
- D. The Service Coordinator will generate an authorization using a 1-11 form. The Service Coordinator will send authorization to vendor.

VI. EVALUATION OF SERVICE

The planning team, vendor reports, review by Early Intervention consultant, and consumer/family feedback will serve as the mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of the service. If the duration of the service exceeds six months, the purchase of the service will need to be evaluated every six months or more frequently as recommended by consultant.