



Early Intervention Specialist:

An Early Intervention (E.I.) Specialist is a certified teacher who is specially trained in typical infant/toddler development and in working with young children who have special needs. The E.I. Specialist provides parents and caregivers training, support, techniques and strategies that enhance a child's growth and development. Families and E.I. Specialists work together to develop intervention plans that include activities that can be easily used with the child's daily routines. Research has shown that very young children learn best when given the opportunity to practice new skills often throughout the day in their natural environments such as home, day-care, the park, the library and other places where children spend their time. Parent support groups, parent-child playgroups and parent-to-parent contacts are made available to interested families with the assistance of their E.I. Specialist.



If you are concerned about your child's development, please call Help Me Grow of Knox County toll free at 1-800-755-GROW (4769).

If you are eligible, free services can be provided to develop skills and help your child catch up with their peers.

Early Intervention CONTACTS

**Vicki Clark, EI Specialist
740-398-1340**

**Cathy Price, EI Specialist
740-263-1123**



Partnering with Individuals and the Community.

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Knox County Board of MRDD

EARLY INTERVENTION

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Specialized Services:

Physical, occupational therapy and speech therapy are specialized services that are delivered to children that need them. Therapists provide evaluations and program strategies for the family to implement through daily activities and with the support of the E.I. Specialist. Therapists monitor skill development with periodic visits with the child and family, providing additional support and guidance as needed.



Individual Family Service Plan:

The Knox County Board of MRDD E.I. Specialist will work collaboratively with the family's Help Me Grow service coordinator to develop an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP process is family focused and reflects a family's desired outcomes. It also documents all supports and services the child and family are receiving as well as important transitions they may make.

Services & Supports



Home and Community Site Visits:

One hour is the typical amount of time an E.I. Specialist may spend with a child and family at their home or at another community site. Classroom sessions are generally scheduled for an hour and a half. Visits can be scheduled weekly or at less frequently, according to family requests. Family participation at all visits is necessary in order to maximize learning opportunities for their child.

A Brighter
Tomorrow
Begins
Today



Cancellations:

On occasion, it may be necessary for the E.I. Specialist to cancel a visit (illness, vacation, holiday). Every effort will be made to notify you of the cancellation in advance. When possible, your visit may be rescheduled. Families needing to cancel a visit are asked to **call in advance** early in the day so the E.I. Specialist can adapt their schedule.

Illness:

Please be sure to cancel a home visit when a member of the household has a contagious illness. Please follow the *General Guidelines for Keeping Children Home from School Due to Illness* and do not bring your child into the classroom if they have chicken pox, common cold, fever, flu, head lice, impetigo, pain pinkeye, skin rash, strep throat, scarlet fever, vomiting and diarrhea or any other contagious condition that may jeopardize the health of EI Specialists and/or other children.

Weather Cancellations

The Early Intervention classrooms of the New Hope Early Education Center will not close due to weather unless there is a Level II Emergency (or greater) in effect for Knox County. For classroom visits, the parent or guardian transporting the child should decide if they feel the weather is too dangerous to travel and follow the above procedures if they wish to cancel.