

What is early childhood intervention?

- Early childhood intervention encompasses intervention and support services for any children who have developmental problems, delays or disabilities – from the time they are born to starting school. These services include counselling and assistance for parents and other caretakers of the child (family, nursery facility, etc.).
- Early childhood intervention centres* work with paediatricians, socio-paediatric centres, established therapists, clinics, child care centres and child and youth welfare services.



- Early childhood intervention and counselling services are free of charge for these families. The costs are covered by the municipalities, health insurance companies and the Federal State of Hesse.

* In addition to the general early childhood intervention centres based in cities and administrative districts, there are also cross-regional early intervention centres for children who are visually or hearing impaired as well as autism treatment institutions.

How do I find the early childhood intervention centre in my area?

You can obtain the address for the early childhood intervention centre in your area from your paediatrician, your nursery, your local health or social services office, or the Hesse early childhood intervention office (below).

Where can I find more information on early childhood intervention?

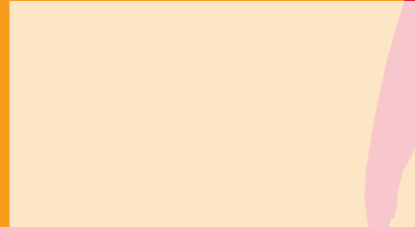
The Hesse early childhood intervention office can assist you with any questions regarding early development:

Address: Arbeitsstelle Frühförderung Hessen
Ludwigstraße 136, 63067 Offenbach

Telephone: (069) 8 09 09 69 60

Email: asff@fruehe-hilfen-hessen.de

Supporting institution: LAG Frühe Hilfen in Hessen e. V.
Grünberger Str. 222, 35394 Gießen
www.fruehe-hilfen-hessen.de



„Early intervention provides children
with developmental support“

When can I contact an early childhood intervention centre?

- If you are worried about your child's development, e.g. her motor development, speech development, behaviour, play or intellectual development.
- If your child has been diagnosed with an impairment and you are wondering how you can support his development and what resources are available to you.
- If your child was premature and you have questions about her development or are looking for early intervention options.
- If your paediatrician has referred you to an early intervention centre for an initial meeting as part of an early diagnosis.
- If your child is having difficulties at his child care centre and the staff there would like counselling and support.



What are the basics of early childhood intervention?

- **Early childhood intervention** is a voluntary service. The aim is to offer resources and help children develop as much as possible. The services it provides help children to use their strengths, discover their skills and interact with their environment.
- **Family focus**
Each family is different. Early childhood intervention is geared towards the particular opportunities each child and her family have and is meant as a resource for the entire family.
- **Holistic view**
Even if a child needs support in various areas, the child is one whole person. Services are tied in to your child's interests and deal with her day-to-day life.
- **Interdisciplinary approach**
Experts in different fields collaborate to address the many facets of child development. An intervention and treatment plan is created in collaboration with the respective parties and is discussed and agreed on with the parents. Early childhood intervention centres are primarily staffed with pedagogical and therapeutic specialists. They also cooperate with established therapists. Collaboration with paediatricians is fundamental. Other cooperative partners are consulted as needed.
- **Networking**
Early childhood intervention helps children and their families in their living and learning environments. This requires cooperation with other services and facilities in the child's social environment.

„Early intervention provides children with developmental support“



What services does early childhood intervention include?

- Early detection and diagnostics for determining your child's stage of development
- Creation of individual intervention and treatment plans
- Special needs education for development
- Therapy (occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy)
- Counselling and support for parents including the child's development opportunities, intervention options, environmental setup, resources, legal principles and visits to his nursery facility or school
- Counselling for child care centres with parent involvement

Early childhood intervention can be provided at home at the child care centre or at the early childhood intervention centre.

