

A young child with dark hair, wearing a light blue striped shirt, is holding a yellow toy. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Early Intervention—

Addressing developmental delays as early as possible can make a profound difference in a child's life.

MayInstitute
Shaping Futures. Changing Lives.

HOME AND SCHOOL CONSULTATION SERVICES

Early intervention is a program funded through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) that provides supports to children from birth to age 3. A child may be eligible for services if s/he has a developmental delay. This could mean that he or she is not saying many or any words; not sitting, crawling, or walking when expected; has a diagnosed disability such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, or autism; and/or lives in an environment that would put him or her at risk for developing delays.

Services provided by our May Center for Early Intervention may include:

- Service coordination
- Speech and language, physical, and occupational therapies
- Play groups
- Parent support
- Advocacy

Promoting individual growth

Our services incorporate “best practices” in early childhood education, promoting individual growth through play in five areas of child development:

- 1] **Fine/Gross Motor:** how I use my hands, or hands and eyes together and how I move my body
- 2] **Personal/Social:** understanding feelings/relating to others
- 3] **Cognitive:** understanding the world around you
- 4] **Communication:** expressing yourself/understanding others
- 5] **Adaptive:** doing things for yourself

Our staff and program

Our program provides individualized services tailored to meet the needs of the child and provide training to help parents become “co-teachers” in the delivery of services.

We employ highly trained professionals including:

- Speech, Occupational, and Physical Therapists
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Social Worker
- Bilingual Development Specialist (English/Spanish)

SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

May Institute offers a wide variety of services designed to meet the needs of children and their families with autism and other special needs. From early intervention, specialty services, and home-based programs, to support for students in the classroom, we can make a profound difference in your child's life.

frequently asked questions

How can I get services for my child?

The May Center for Early Intervention provides early intervention services to families in Belchertown, Chicopee, Granby, Holyoke, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, South Hadley, Southamptton, and Ware. Referrals for early intervention services can be made by anyone (for example: parents, daycare providers, pediatricians, or social workers). Once we receive a referral, the first step is to conduct an eligibility evaluation. At the May Center, this process can take one to two hours, after which our evaluation team will explain the results and talk with you about services your child may need.

What is an IFSP?

All children enrolled in the early intervention system have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This is a document written in cooperation with parents. It spells out exactly what the family would like the providers to work on, and how all parties can work together to best serve the child and meet the needs of the family. Typically, an IFSP includes a description of a child's and family's strengths and concerns; specific goals and strategies; how often services should be provided; and, if needed, a plan to support a family accessing any ancillary services such as housing, nutrition programs, and day care vouchers.

What happens when my child turns 3?

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is committed to ensuring that all children who receive early intervention services are able to smoothly transition into the next step of their development/education. This could mean a referral to a public school, Head Start, and/or local play groups. Early intervention teams at the May Center inform parents about their options and offer as much support as needed so a child and his or her family are prepared to "graduate" from early intervention when he or she turns 3.



MAY CENTER FOR EARLY INTERVENTION

We are located in West Springfield and provide services to families in Belchertown, Chicopee, Granby, Holyoke, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, South Hadley, Southamptton, and Ware.

To find programs in another community, you may call Family Ties, the central directory for early intervention services in Massachusetts, at 800.905.8437.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A REFERRAL:

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