



Navigating Virginia's Early Childhood Programs: EC101 and State of the State

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Agenda

- ▶ Context from *MV*
- ▶ Overview of programs and who is served
- ▶ How the programs work together
- ▶ What's new in the Commonwealth
- ▶ Discussion
- ▶ Resources

Context

Poverty & Special Needs

- ▶ *“Poverty and its attendant stressors have the potential to shape the neurobiology of the developing child in powerful ways...”*

(Duncan, Ziol-guest, Kalil, 2010)

- ▶ Experiences build brain architecture

- ▶ Connections and pruning





Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

- ▶ Most likely to enter shelter as an infant
- ▶ Impact of earlier and longer duration on health and development
- ▶ Virginia 2016-17
 - ▶ 529 enrolled 3-5 not Kindergarten
 - ▶ Subgrants served 805 birth-preK

These little piggies...



are homeless.

Pat Van Doren It's About the Children www.hearus.us

So how to we reach them?

Overview of Programs

- ▶ State Agency and funding
- ▶ Who administers at local level (how many programs?)
- ▶ Who can be served
- ▶ Basic process to be identified and served

What is Early Intervention – Part C

- ▶ Early Intervention provides supports and services to infants and toddlers from birth through age two who are not developing as expected or who have a medical condition that can delay normal development.
- ▶ Early intervention supports and services focus on increasing the child's participation in family and community activities that are important to the family.

Who is eligible?

In Virginia, children from birth to age three are eligible for Part C early intervention services if:

- ▶ They are functioning 25% or more below their chronological age or adjusted age in one or more areas of development (i.e., cognitive, physical, communication, social-emotional, or adaptive development);
- ▶ They show atypical development (e.g., behavioral disorders, affective disorders, abnormal sensory-motor responses); and/or
- ▶ They have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay. Autism is one of the conditions in this category.

Part C Early Intervention Services May Include:

- ▶ Assistive technology
- ▶ Audiology
- ▶ Developmental Services
- ▶ Family training, counseling and home visits
- ▶ Health services
- ▶ Medical services (for diagnostic and evaluation purposes only)



- Nursing Services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Social work services
- Speech-language pathology
- Transportation
- Vision services



Evidenced Based Practices Utilized

Natural Environments, Routines, Coaching & Functional Outcomes

Some Key Principles:



- ▶ Early intervention services are to be provided in natural environments to the maximum extent appropriate.
- ▶ Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts (routines).
- ▶ All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development (coaching).
- ▶ The primary role of the service provider in EI is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives (coaching).
- ▶ IFSP outcomes (goals) must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities (functional outcomes).

Funding Part C Early Intervention Services

- ▶ Federal Part C funds are allocated to 40 local system lead agencies and are available as payor of last resort.
- ▶ Many private insurance plans pay for some early intervention services.
- ▶ Medicaid covers all Part C early intervention services.
- ▶ A sliding fee scale is available to families.
- ▶ No child and family will be denied services due to an inability to pay.

Who can make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral.



Any child who is suspected of being eligible can be referred to Virginia's Part C system. Anyone can make a referral, including parents and/or family members, social workers, physicians and others with whom the child and family have contact.

*Referral sources do not need parental permission to refer, but Part C does need parental permission to share information with anyone (FERPA=Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act).

Central Point of Entry

<http://infantva.org/documents/CITIES-COUNTIES-all.pdf>

Or 1-800-234-1448

EARLY HEAD START AND HEAD START

- Early Head Start – Serves pregnant women & children birth – 36 mos.
- Head Start – Serves children 3 to 4 years old/kindergarten entry
- Federal-to-locally funded
- Eligibility
 1. Family income equal to or below federal poverty line
 2. Child is experiencing homelessness as defined by McKinney-Vento
 3. Child is in foster care
 4. Family is eligible for public assistance
- www.headstartva.org
- Aleta.Lawson@dss.virginia.gov

Early Childhood Special Education

- ▶ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- ▶ Special Education and Related Services
- ▶ Children ages 2-5
- ▶ Individualized Education Program (IEP)

- ▶ autism
- ▶ deaf-blind
- ▶ emotional disability
- ▶ hearing impairment
- ▶ learning disability
- ▶ intellectual disability
- ▶ multiple disabilities
- ▶ orthopedic impairment
- ▶ other health impairment
- ▶ speech or language impairment
- ▶ traumatic brain injury
- ▶ visual impairment / blindness
- ▶ developmental delay



How do your programs work together?

WITH WHOM DO YOU WORK?

HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?



What if a child is suspected of having a disability?

Children with Disabilities / Delay

- ▶ EI
- ▶ ECSE
 - ▶ Contact the school nearest you
 - ▶ Proof of residency will not be required if homeless



What's new or on the horizon that
we need to know?



Discussion and Questions

Resources

- ▶ Virginia Family Special Education Connection (Parent Organizer with Educational Resources [POWER])
 - ▶ <https://vafamilysped.org/>

- ▶ Parent Pack adapted for younger children



Helpful Websites

- ▶ Administration for Children and Families
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children>
- ▶ NAEHCY
<https://naehcy.org/early-childhood/>
- ▶ NCHE
https://nche.ed.gov/ibt/sc_preschool.php
- ▶ Project HOPE-VA
<https://education.wm.edu/centers/hope/resources/ecr/index.php>
- ▶ SchoolHouse Connection
<https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/early-childhood/>
- ▶ Virginia Department of Education
<http://doe.virginia.gov>

