

SPOTLIGHT ON - EARLY INTERVENTION

Early Intervention Services have been provided by County Boards of MRDD for many years for children 0 to age 3. The title was originally Supportive Home Services Specialist and has more recently been changed to Early Intervention Specialist but the services offered have been similar. The Specialist for each child/family provides evaluation and/or assessment of the child's skills, strengths and needs, develops a plan to meet the child and family's needs and then provides in-home visits to work with the child and family.

The developmental activities that are used with the child are ones that can be carried out by the parent throughout the week. The activities are directed toward helping the child develop skills in areas of cognitive, language, motor, social-emotional and self-help. Some children may also be referred to community based therapy services for additional help in speech, physical and/or occupational therapy. All of this is delivered by way of the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) that is tailored for each family and child in the program.

With recent changes, Early Intervention (EI) has become one of a variety of services connected under the Help Me Grow initiative. This is an effort to make resources more accessible to families, in combination with other services much can be offered to the families of young children in this county. In this way services provided through other agencies can be quickly accessed for families when needed, making transitions seamless.