

Infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities can't wait.



What is Early Intervention for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities?

The Baby Watch Early Intervention Program is a statewide special education program that provides support and services to families with infants and toddlers who have developmental delays, disabilities or diagnosed conditions, such as Down syndrome and Autism. Early Intervention (EI) is provided in accordance with the 1986 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

What does the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program do?

Referrals come from parents, medical professionals and early childhood programs. Highly qualified, well-trained EI professionals provide in-home therapy and parent training to close the developmental gap for infants and toddlers.

*"Doctors told us Alex would never be able to walk, talk, or play. Today, Alex is doing many things doctors said he would never do—he attends school, plays sports, reads small books and he loves to sing! We credit the highly trained and caring Early Intervention professionals with many of the miracles of our son's development."
— Janae, Alex's mom*

Speech Therapy	Comprehensive Evaluations
Physical Therapy	Occupational Therapy
Hearing and Vision Screening	Nursing
Feeding and Nutrition	Social Work

Family-Centered Services

Utah had record growth in early intervention referrals, yet funding remains flat.

- From SFY13 to SFY15, referrals to EI programs increased by 12%.
- A growing number of children are in need of EI services. In SFY15, 4% of Utah's birth-to-3 population received EI services. Research indicates that as many as 13% of birth-to-3 year olds have delays that would make them eligible for services.¹
- An independent evaluation found that the cost of operating the state-wide Early Intervention program in SFY2014 was 10% greater than the funding provided.²
- **In the first 6 months of SFY16, referrals have increased by 38%. By end of year, a projected 2,365 more children will be referred for EI services.**

Why should we fund early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities?

85%	• 85% of brain development occurs by age three. It is critical to intervene early when a child's brain is most capable of change.
1 out of 54	• Utah has one of the highest rates for children diagnosed with Autism—1 out of 54. EI programs conduct universal screening for Autism Spectrum Disorder to begin treatment early.
35%	• Between SFY12 and SFY14, 35% percent of children exiting the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program made enough progress that they did not require preschool special education services.
77%	• 77% of children enrolled in EI services from SFY12-14 showed improvement in their knowledge and skills, and their development moved closer to typically developing children of the same age.

Without additional funding, more young children with developmental disabilities will enter preschool and kindergarten requiring higher cost special education.

Increase state investment in the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program!

1. Rosenberg, S., Zhang, D. & Robinson, C. (2008) Prevalence of developmental delays and participation in early intervention services. *Pediatrics*, 121(6) e1503-c1509. doi:10.1542/peds.2007-1680
2. Goetze, L., Ph.D. (2015) *Baby Watch Early Intervention Cost Study*.