

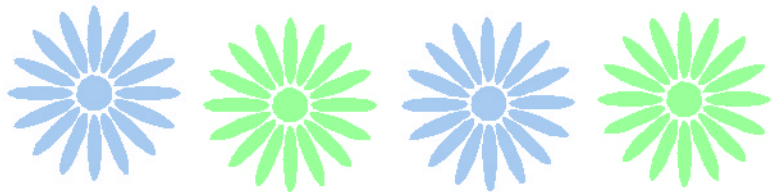
Why start so young?



Child Development Research shows that the rate of children's learning is most rapid in the years before school. Timing of intervention becomes very important when a child runs the risk of missing an opportunity to learn during a time when they are most ready. If the most teachable moments are not taken advantage of, a child may have difficulty learning a particular skill at a later time. Through early identification and programming, children can develop their potential.

Fifty years of research has shown that children who receive Early Intervention compared to similar children who do not, need fewer special services later in life and are held back in school less often, and in some cases do not need any special services once they reach kindergarten.

M.B. Karns & R.C. Lee
The Council for Exceptional Children



Early Intervention



Helping children with developmental disabilities or delays.

Birth to age 3.



A Two-Part Program



1 HELP ME GROW (HMG)



Sue Gonter Dray
Intake & Referral



Deb Eppley
Service Coordinator



Tracey Livingston
Service Coordinator



Krisy Mast
Service Coordinator



Becky Smith
Service Coordinator



Jen Wiggs
Family Support Specialist

Your Service Coordinator assists your family in getting the services they need so your child can develop to their full potential. They also help you make goals for your child through the IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan).

Holmes County Help Me Grow is a program of the Holmes County Family and Children First Council, managed by the Holmes County Health Department in cooperation with the Holmes Department of Job and Family Services and Holmes County Board of MRDD.



2 EARLY INTERVENTION (EI)



Sharon Allison
EI Specialist



Shelley Armstrong
Occupational Therapist



Denise Estill
EI Specialist



Steve Hoffman
Physical Therapist



Lacy Iberis
Speech & Language



Renee Spencer
EI Specialist

Your child's IFSP determines which therapy your child will receive and how often. Early Intervention Specialists work with you and your child at your home, at the Early Childhood Center, or where ever is convenient for you. The therapists provide therapy at the Early Childhood Center.

Early Intervention is a program of the Holmes County Board of MRDD.



Angie Willard
Speech & Language

About EI Services



Our approach is from a collaborative model where parents receive instruction and see therapy demonstrated so they can perform the same "exercises" at home on a daily basis. Studies show that parents, who continue therapy at home with such regularity, see the greatest improvement in their children.



EI Specialists use Responsive Teaching and HAWAII curriculum as the foundation for home based services. Music & rhyme are integrated into programming to fully engage the child's mind.



Speech and Language Pathologist target speech and/or swallowing difficulties in small group or individual sessions. A total communication approach is utilized which may incorporate verbal speech, sign language and pictures.



Occupational Therapy focuses on strengthening your child's arms and hands, helping your child use their hands better, teach self-help skills and adapt items to increase independence, and provide sensory based activities to help your child move and learn.



Physical Therapy targets gross motor development. We work on skills such as rolling, crawling, sitting, standing, and walking.



Play Therapy is strongly encouraged. Research connects play to advances in children's cognitive, language, social, emotional and sensory motor development. Peers perform an especially critical role as they foster opportunities that cannot be duplicated by adults. Holmes County Early Intervention has several different play options for children.