

In Region 8 our beliefs will be realized when families, children, service providers and community members work as partners to ensure that children and their families receive the support they need to achieve their dreams.

Program Overview

Early ACCESS, formerly known as Iowa's System of Early Intervention Services, is a partnership between families with young children, birth to age three, and providers from local Public Health, Human Services, Child Health Specialty Clinics, area education agencies (AEA) and other community programs. The purpose of this system is for families and staff to work together in identifying, coordinating and providing needed services and resources that will help the family to assist their infant or toddler to grow and develop.

Age Requirements & Eligibility

An infant or toddler under the age of three (birth to age three) who:

- Has a condition or disability that is known to have a high probability of later delays if early intervention services were not provided, or
- Is already experiencing a 25 percent delay in one or more areas of growth or development.

Services

The family and providers work together to identify and address specific family concerns and priorities as they relate to the child's overall growth and development. In addition, broader family needs and concerns can be addressed by locating other supportive services/resources in the local community for the family and/or child. All services to the child are provided in the child's natural environment including the home and other community settings where children of the same age without disabilities participate.

Services required to be made available to children and families include:

- Service Coordination,
- Screenings, evaluation and assessment, and
- Development and reviews of an "Individualized Family Service Plan" (IFSP)

Other services, based upon individual needs, include:

- Assistive Technology
- Audiology
- Family/Training/Counseling
- Health Services
- Medical evaluations
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychology
- Service Coordination
- Social Work
- Special Instruction
- Speech Language Therapy
- Vision
- Transportation

Costs

There are no costs to families for service coordination activities; evaluation and assessment activities to determine eligibility or identify the concerns, priorities and resources of the family; development and reviews of the Individualized Family Service Plan. The service coordinator works with the family to determine costs and payment arrangements of other needed services. Some services may have charges or sliding fee scales or may be provided at no cost to families. Costs are determined by a variety of factors that are individualized to each child and family.

Where to apply Families or providers can call Gale Randall, Early ACCESS Regional Liaison, in the Storm Lake office at 866-503-4636 ext. 2036 or 712-732-2257 ext. 2036, grandall@aea8.k12.ia.us.