

## **Ages 0-5**

### **Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)**

ECI is a coordinated system of services available in every county within Texas for children birth to age three with disabilities or developmental delays. ECI supports families in helping children with disabilities or developmental delays reach potential through developmental services. ECI contracts with local agencies and organizations through a funding application process.

The local ECI programs must identify, locate, and screen or evaluate all infants and toddlers, birth through two years of age, who have or are suspected of having developmental delays.

ECI must notify CFISD when a child residing in the CFISD attendance area will shortly reach the age of eligibility for preschool services for children with disabilities. ECI programs must notify the appropriate LEA child find personnel of the child's birth date. The notification must be written and include the following information: (a) child's name (b) parent/guardian name(s), (c) address, (d) telephone number(s) and (e) date of enrollment in ECI.

When an ECI program provides a referral to CFISD less than 90 days prior to the child's third birthday, the ECI program must provide a written report stating the reason for the delay. The ECI program must choose one of the reasons listed below for the delay.

- Parent refused consent for referral less than 90 days before the child's third birthday
- The child was referred to ECI less than 90 days before the child's third birthday or
- ECI specific program reasons

### **Children Transitioning from ECI Programs**

When invited by the ECI service provider, the CFISD representative will attend a transition meeting with lead agency personnel and the family not less than 90 days prior to the eligible child's third birthday.

CFISD will complete the child centered process. This process includes:

- CFISD will accept a referral approximately 90 days prior to the student's third birthday.
- To avoid a gap in services and to assure a smooth effective transition to preschool programs, CFISD will accept appropriate evaluations from an infant program serving children with disabilities.
- CFISD will complete the referral, evaluation, and ARD process within the required timelines no later than the child's 3rd birthday.
- The ARD Committee will determine eligibility, educational need and will develop an IEP to determine placement.
- Eligible preschool children will receive the necessary services as determined by the ARD Committee beginning on their third birthday.

Services for children who are deaf or hard of hearing or have visual impairments, birth through two, are coordinated with ECI service providers in the development of the Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) in lieu of an ARD. CFISD will document services were coordinated, including

copies of progress reports. CFISD has the capacity to provide services to the student throughout the year.

**NOTE:** Services are provided only under IDEA-C guidelines, not IDEA-B. Typical procedures followed such as: (a) distributing Notice of Procedural Safeguards, (b) completing the Part B referral packets, (c) obtaining consents, and (d) completing full and individual evaluations may not be followed. This would conflict with Part C, may cause parent confusion and could place undue hardship on parents.

### **Children Referred by Parents/Guardians /Others (not previously served in ECI)**

For children with suspected developmental delays birth through 2 years of age, the CFISD maintain logs that document:

- Within 2 working days from the date that a "Child Find" referral is received it is forwarded to an ECI program, (the CFISD will collaborate with the ECI program and determine appropriate steps based on the student age and needs),
- The CFISD will follow up with the ECI program to assure evaluation is completed within 45 calendar days from the date the referral is received,
- The ARD Committee will determine eligibility, educational need and develop an IEP to determine placement prior to the third birthday.
- Other students with impairments are eligible for a public school FIE at least 90 calendar days before their third birthday.
- For children referred prior to age 3, but less than the 90 days prior to their 3rd birthday, the CFISD will complete the referral and evaluation process in a timely manner following the required referral timelines.

If a parent of a preschool age student (3-5 years old) not enrolled in the district is concerned about their child's development and it is suspected that the child may have a disability, the parent is encouraged to contact the district office to discuss their concerns.

- The district office completes an intake and sends the intake to the appropriate ECSE campus
- The campus staff contact the parent to schedule an appointment within 15 school days for a screening to determine if potential delays are present.
- A referral committee meets to review all data to determine if a referral for evaluation is needed. If not, a Notice of Decision is completed at that time or within 5 school days.
- The required timelines for the evaluation and ARD process should be followed.

For eligible students 3 years of age and older, the CFISD will develop an IEP. If a student's 3rd birthday occurs during summer, the ARD Committee will determine the date services under the IEP will begin.

Details regarding the process and forms are available in the appraisal handbooks and staff is trained on the requirements pertaining to providing services to students eligible for special education by their third birthdays.