

## Early Intervention Eligibility

### Infants and Toddlers (birth to three years of age who have):

- a significant delay in one or more areas of development (25% delay);
- a specialist's determination that there is a delay even though it doesn't appear on the assessments (called informed clinical opinion); and/or
- known physical or mental conditions which have a high probability for developmental delays (for example Down's Syndrome).

Children not eligible for early intervention may still be eligible for tracking services. Children eligible for that service must meet the following criteria:

- birth weight under 3 ½ lbs;
- cared for in the neonatal intensive care unit;
- born to a chemically dependent mother;
- *seriously abused or neglected*; or
- confirmed to have dangerous levels of lead poisoning.

The Department of Welfare (DPW) and Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is responsible for the Commonwealth's Early Intervention Program for eligible infants and toddlers. The County's Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program administers the early intervention programs locally.

### Preschoolers (three years of age to age of kindergarten eligibility):

- a significant delay in one or more areas of development compared to other children his or her age;
- any of the following physical or mental disabilities: autism/pervasive developmental disorder, serious emotional disturbance, neurological impairment, deafness/hard of hearing, specific learning disability, mental retardation, multiple handicaps, other mental impairment, physical disability, speech impairment or blindness/visual impairment; and
- is in need of special education and related services.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is responsible for programs and services for eligible children from age three to the age of beginners (kindergarten). The Bureau of Special Education contracts services through Mutually Agreed upon Written Arrangements (MAWAs) with Intermediate Units (IUs), School Districts and other providers.