

# Welcome to SoonerStart Early Intervention...

## What is SoonerStart Early Intervention?

SoonerStart is a program designed to help parents, other caregivers and children with developmental delays gain the knowledge and confidence they need to be successful in life. Through visits with SoonerStart Early Intervention professionals, the family receives information, support, guidance and consultation about improving the child and families quality of life. It is a program that can be provided in the home, childcare center, the park or other natural settings in the community.

- It is a collaboration among a child's parents, caregivers, childcare providers, SoonerStart Early Intervention professionals and others.
- It is a process that helps the adults in a child's life learn to help the child develop.
- It has been proven to make a family's quality of life better and help adults be more confident in their caregiving abilities.
- It is a service provided to the entire family — not just the child!

## What's it not?

- An interventionist bringing a bag of toys and playing with a child while the parent does something else.
- A program that addresses only children's issues.
- A program with no specific goals or objectives.
- A person telling a family what to do without asking for input.

## What is the key to success of early intervention?

- Partnering with families.
- Early Intervention visits offer adults support so that intervention can happen all day, every day — not just when the professional is present.
- SoonerStart professionals provide emotional support, offer guidance about child development, point families to other community resources, and ensure child and family goals are met. It's a family-centered process that is customized to your individual needs!

## How does it work?

You might have expected home visits to focus only on your child, but early intervention's focus is actually on the adults in the child's life. Why does this work? Because children learn from the interactions and other opportunities that occur in everyday life. You are your child's greatest teacher, and you have the opportunity to work with them throughout the day, every day. We will provide information and support you need to make the most of your "teachable moments" with your child. This way, your child receives quality intervention all the time, not just during home visits.

# Our Mission

***Oklahoma SoonerStart Early Intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.***

## **8 Key Principles:**

- 1.** Early Intervention services for children and families are most effective when agencies and organizations work together to provide services based on family needs.
- 2.** Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts.
- 3.** All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's and family's learning and development.
- 4.** The primary role of the service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives.
- 5.** The early intervention process, from initial contacts through transition, must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child's and family's preferences, learning styles and cultural beliefs.
- 6.** IFSP outcomes must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family identified priorities.
- 7.** The family's priorities, needs, and interests are addressed most appropriately by a primary provider who represents and receives team and community support.
- 8.** Interventions with young children and family members must be based on explicit principles, validated practices, best available research, and relevant laws, and regulations.

***Note... #2 through #8 were adopted from "The Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments" (OSEP TA Community of Practice—Part C Settings)***

# The SoonerStart Process

**REFERRAL** - A referral is made to SoonerStart by the family professional or other concerned individual.

**INTAKE** - A resource coordinator is assigned to your family and the intake process is completed by phone (providing information to you about SoonerStart and obtaining information from you about your child's general health and development).

**SCREENING and/or EVALUATION** - Following the intake process, a developmental screening may be completed to determine if further evaluation/assessment (eligibility evaluation) may be necessary. An eligibility evaluation may be scheduled directly following intake (allow 2 hours).

**Child does not qualify for SoonerStart** - Referrals to other services are made for your child and family.

**Child qualifies for SoonerStart** - The Routines-Based Interview/ Individualized Family Service Plan is scheduled with your family (allow 2 hours).

**Routines-Based Interview (RBI)** - A semistructured interview, conducted by SoonerStart staff, of at least one parent/caregiver, regarding child and family functioning in daily home and childcare routines, for the purposes of selecting a list of functional outcomes or goals for intervention and establishing a positive relationship between your family and SoonerStart.

**Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)** - The team will develop a plan (IFSP) that lists the outcomes or goals that result from the RBI and may also include steps and activities related to these outcomes. Family selected IFSP outcomes are designed to meet the needs of your child and family. Based on the IFSP outcomes, services will be decided at this meeting by the IFSP team which includes the family.

**SERVICE DELIVERY** - A primary service provider will meet with your family as often as indicated on the IFSP to work on the identified IFSP outcomes.

**TRANSITION** - When your child is between 27 and 33 months, the IFSP team will develop a "transition" plan to meet your child's and family's needs after the age of three.

# Referral Guide

*SoonerStart is a program designed to help parents, other caregivers and children with developmental delays gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to be successful in life. Through early intervention visits, families will receive information, support, guidance and consultation about improving their child's quality of life as well as their own. This referral guide is intended to help you develop a better understanding of the SoonerStart program and process.*

## **Who can make a referral to SoonerStart?**

Physicians and other health professionals, family members, childcare professionals, neighbors, friends and other interested individuals.

## **What referral information is needed?**

- Child's name, gender and date of birth
- Name, address and telephone number of parent or legal guardian
- Reason for the referral
- Child's diagnosed physical or mental condition as applicable
- Child's insurance information, if known
- Your name and contact information

## **Why make a SoonerStart referral?**

Concerns are noted with an infant or toddler's current development based on observation, developmental screening or both. An infant or toddler may have been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition having a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. Examples include, but are not limited to, vision or hearing impairment, chromosomal abnormalities such as Down Syndrome or metabolic disorders.

## **How is a SoonerStart referral made?**

First determine the child's current county of residence and then identify the appropriate SoonerStart office for that county using the chart on the reverse side. Contact the identified office by phone or the family may be provided with the SoonerStart office contact information—a written referral is optional.

## **What does the family need to know?**

Participation in the SoonerStart early intervention program is voluntary. SoonerStart will complete the developmental screening, evaluation of the child's development or both at no direct cost to the family.

## **What happens if the child is eligible for SoonerStart services?**

The family will be given the option to either accept or decline SoonerStart services. If they choose to accept, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) identifying the needed services and supports for the child and the family will be developed. The family will participate in identifying these services and supports.

## Referral Guide...

# Making the referral

### County of Residence

Adair: (918) 456-8826  
Alfalfa: (580) 233-0650  
Atoka: (580) 924-6562  
Beaver (580) 338-8544  
Beckham (580) 323-2100  
Blaine (580) 323-2100  
Bryan (580)924-6562  
Caddo: (580) 248-5890  
Canadian: (405) 262-0042  
Carter: (580) 223-9705  
Cherokee: (918) 456-8826  
Choctaw: (580) 286-6628  
Cimarron: (580) 338-8544  
Cleveland: (405) 321-4048  
Coal: (580) 332-2011  
Comanche: (580) 248-5890  
Cotton: (580) 248-5890  
Craig: (918) 256-7531  
Creek: (918) 224-5531  
Custer: (580)323-2100  
Delaware: (918) 456-8826  
Dewey: (580) 256-6416  
Ellis: (580) 256-6416  
Garfield: (580) 233-0650  
Garvin: (405) 321-4048  
Grady: (405) 224-2022

### County of Residence

Grant: (580) 233-0650  
Greer: (580) 482-7308  
Harmon: (580) 482-7308  
Harper: (580) 256-6416  
Haskell: (918) 647-8601  
Hughes: (405) 273-2157  
Jackson: (580) 482-7308  
Jefferson: (580)223-9705  
Johnston: (580) 223-9705  
Kay: (405) 372-8200  
Kingfisher: (405) 282-3485  
Kiowa: (580) 482-7308  
Latimer: (918) 423-1267  
LeFlore: (918) 647-8601  
Lincoln: (405) 282-3485  
Logan: (405) 282-3485  
Love: (580) 223-9705  
Major: (580) 233-0650  
Marshall: (580) 924-6562  
Mayes: (918) 456-8826  
McClain: (405) 321-4048  
McCurtain: (580) 286-6628  
McIntosh: (918) 756-1883  
Murray: (580) 332-2011  
Muskogee: (918) 683-0321

### County of Residence

Noble: (405) 372-8200  
Nowata: (918) 335-3005  
Okfuskee: (918) 224-5531  
Oklahoma: (405) 271-9477  
Okmulgee: (918) 756-1883  
Osage: (918) 335-3005  
Ottawa: (918) 256-7531  
Pawnee: (405) 372-8200  
Payne: (405) 372-8200  
Pittsburg: (918) 423-1267  
Pontotoc: (580) 332-2011  
Pottawatomie: (405) 273-2157  
Pushmataha: (580) 286-6628  
Roger Mills: (580) 323-2100  
Rogers: (918) 341-3166  
Seminole: (405) 273-2157  
Sequoyah: (918) 647-8601  
Stephens: (405) 224-2022  
Texas: (580) 338-8544  
Tillman: (580) 482-7308  
Tulsa: (918) 835-8691  
Wagoner: (918) 683-0321  
Washington: (918) 335-3005  
Washita: (580) 323-2100  
Woods: (580) 256-6416  
Woodward: (580) 256-6416



## Welcome to SoonerStart Early Intervention...

# Our promise to you...

As we welcome you to SoonerStart Early Intervention we strive to make this a meaningful and positive experience for you, your child, and your family. We would like to introduce early intervention services to you by explaining that SoonerStart emphasizes the following principles...

- SoonerStart strives to maximize interventions to children.
- More intervention does not come from more services.
- All the intervention that your child receives will come from you between your early intervention visits.
- Our job as the professional is to support you as the parent/caregiver for your child.

### **To show this we make the following promise to you:**

- We will inform you.
- We will teach you how to teach and do other things with your child.
- We will teach you about your child's disability.
- We will teach you about child development.
- We will give you access to materials you will need.
- We will get equipment (including assistive technology) you may need to enhance your child's development.
- We will make sure you have access to financial resources that you may be entitled to are available.
- We will support you emotionally.
- We will be positive with and about you.
- We will be responsive to you.
- We will pay attention to your whole family, especially the primary caregiver.
- We will be friendly to you.
- We will be sensitive to you.

**Information source:**

**"Working with Families of Young Children with Special Needs" edited by R. A. McWilliam 2010 New York Guilford Publications**