



Strong Start's Early Intervention Approach

Strong Start provides free, family-centered early intervention support for children age birth to three and their families.

EARLY INTERVENTION
Early intervention supports infants and toddlers with developmental delays and their families.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE
Strong Start's approach to early intervention is based on evidence. This means that Strong Start uses strategies and supports that we know work based on research.

If you have questions or developmental concerns about a child age birth to three, please contact Strong Start (202) 727-3665 or visit www.osse.dc.gov.



NATURAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT PRACTICES

Family members and other care providers learn practices that use a child's interests and everyday activities as learning opportunities. The child's natural environment becomes a safe space for the child to practice and learn new skills.

PRIMARY SERVICE PROVIDER & TEAM
Families are matched with an early interventionist who is the primary provider on the child's team. A child's team includes other interventionists and a service coordinator who support families in addressing their child's developmental needs and helps them connect to services and community resources.

COACHING INTERACTION STYLE
Early interventionists work with families and caregivers to find ways to support their child's development. The idea is to support the child in their natural environment, like home or child care center, and during their daily routines. Coaching builds on what families are already doing, and increases the family's confidence and comfort when helping their child.

INTEREST-BASED LEARNING & FAMILY ROUTINES
Early interventionists use the child's involvement in activities with people and objects they find fun and exciting as the best way for them to learn and grow.