

Strong Start Road Map

A Guide through the DC Early Intervention Program

Strong Start is the District's Early Intervention Program for families with children under age three who are concerned about their child's development. Keep this "Road Map" handy to remind you of the steps for each phase. **Strong Start** is a voluntary program and you may withdraw at any time.

1

Referral

- Referral source or parent suspects child of having developmental delay or disability and contacts Strong Start
- Strong Start contacts parent, informs them about program and assigns **Service Coordinator (SC)**

2

Service Coordinator

- Provides information about Strong Start
- Informs family of rights
- Refers family to an evaluation site

3

The Evaluation

- Determines eligibility
- Conducts family assessment
- Gathers information for **Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP)**

4

IFSP Meeting (If child is eligible)

- Family identifies desired outcomes
- IFSP team specifies early intervention services and develops written plan
- Family agrees to services

5

Early Intervention Services

- Services that support families to be able help the child participate in every day routines
- Delivered in the child's natural learning environment such as home, child development center or community settings
- Provided at no cost to the families

*Areas of Development

- Cognitive
- Physical (including vision and hearing)
- Communication
- Social/Emotional
- Adaptive development

6

IFSP Review (Six Months / Evaluate Annually)

- IFSP team makes decision to continue, add, modify or delete strategies, outcomes, and/or services based on ongoing assessments
 - If parent requests, review may happen sooner
- Child may exit **Strong Start** based on assessment results

7

Transition

- Plans for transition included in IFSP
- Planning begins between ages 2 years 6 months and 2 years 9 months
- **Strong Start** services end on child's 3rd birthday

Don't wait and wonder.

If your child is younger than three and you have questions, call **202-727-3665** or visit **osse.dc.gov**.

Parental/guardian's consent required for the evaluation, IFSP, provision of services in IFSP, and transition.