

Speaker 1:

The Arizona Early Intervention Program, or AzEIP, supports families with infants and toddlers who have significant developmental delays or disabilities. All AzEIP services are provided in the family's home and community at no cost to the family. Anyone including family members or professionals can submit a referral if they have concerns about a child's development. Referrals can be made by phone, fax, email, or through the AzEIP Online Portal.

Speaker 2:

Hi, buddy.

Speaker 1:

Once a referral is made to AzEIP, the family will be assigned to an agency contracted to provide services in the family's area. In the first step of this process, a Service Coordinator who has been assigned to the family will call within two days of receiving the referral to explain the AzEIP program and the services it provides. The Service Coordinator will explain the eligibility process and answer any questions the family may have. Within 10 days of the AzEIP referral, the Service Coordinator will schedule a home visit with the family to share information about early intervention, explain their child and family rights, gather information about their child, and obtain written consent for a screening and evaluation, if needed.

The Service Coordinator will also share about other programs and services the child may be eligible to receive. If a child has a qualifying condition, they may be automatically eligible for AzEIP. If not, the Service Coordinator will conduct a screening to determine if an evaluation is recommended. During the screening, the Service Coordinator and family discuss the child's development to identify if the child may have a potential developmental delay. Regardless of the screening results, a family may always request an evaluation. If an evaluation is needed, the Service Coordinator will coordinate with the team to schedule the evaluation in the family's home.

A child may be eligible for AzEIP if they have not reached 50% of their milestones in any of these developmental areas: Cognitive development, physical development, including vision and hearing, communication skills, social or emotional development, and self-help or adaptive development. If a child is not eligible for early intervention services, the Service Coordinator will assist the family in finding other community resources, including other home visiting programs.

Families may request to receive copies of any document completed by the Early Intervention Team. Children evaluated for AzEIP will receive an evaluation report, which the family can share with their pediatrician. If a child is not eligible, a child can be re-referred back to AzEIP at any time prior to turning three years of age. Once a child is eligible for AzEIP, the team of professionals, including the Service Coordinator, Developmental Special Instructionist, a physical therapist, speech therapist, and an occupational therapist are ready to support the family. Depending on the child and family's needs, they may also be assigned a vision or hearing teacher, social worker, psychologist, or other supports.

The Early Intervention Team will partner with the family to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan, otherwise known as the IFSP. This document is used to identify the family's priorities and create goals and the services needed to meet the family outcomes. Parents and caregivers are the experts on their child and are the most important team members on the Early Intervention Team. For additional information on the services provided through AzEIP, you can visit the AzEIP website at [des.az.gov/azeip](https://des.az.gov/azeip) or call 888-592-0140.