



# An Overview of *Early On*<sup>®</sup> and Build Up

Michigan's *Early On* and Build Up programs are available to support children with disabilities and developmental delays, ages birth to five, and their families.

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## What is *Early On* Michigan?

*Early On Michigan* is the system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and/or delays, from birth to age three, and their families. *Early On* services are designed to support both the child and the child's family.

Services are provided through a family centered approach, and supported by an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This means that services are designed to support both the child and family based on their unique strengths and needs. Services are also informed by the family's concerns and priorities for their child.

### Who is eligible?

- Infants and toddlers with identified developmental delays
- Infants and toddlers with a diagnosed medical condition

## How can children receive services?

You can support a family in making the referral or by offering to make the referral with the family. Either way, the family should be aware and agree to the referral to ensure continued trust and relationship building.

1. **Referral Process:** If there are concerns about a child's development, an evaluation is suggested to determine if they are eligible for *Early On*. Referrals can be made by:
  - » Visiting [1800earlyon.org](https://1800earlyon.org)
  - » Calling **1-800-EARLYON**
  - » Contacting the [Early On Coordinator](#) at your county-level intermediate school district

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Familiarize yourself with the *Early On* referral form before talking to families. You can find the form at [1800earlyon.org](https://1800earlyon.org).

Families should hear from their local *Early On* program within 10 calendar days of receipt of referral. An evaluation will be conducted within 45 calendar days of receipt of the referral.

### 2. Eligibility Determination:

- » The first step is an evaluation of the child's development and an assessment of the child's and family's strengths, needs, and priorities.
- » When a child is found eligible for *Early On* services, the Service Coordinator will schedule and hold the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting.
- » Per federal requirements, this meeting must be held within 45 days of receipt of referral. This meeting will begin to shape the plan for services and supports for the child and their family.

## Questions?

Contact *Early On* at **1-800-EARLYON**

To speak to an *Early On* Coordinator, go to: to: <https://eotta.ccesa.org/Contacts.php?id=1>



## 3-5 What is Build Up?

**Build Up** helps parents and their children, **ages three through five**, get additional educational support as they begin and continue to learn the skills needed to enter kindergarten. An initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education, Build Up supports child find efforts through targeted outreach.



A goal of Build Up is to locate all children who may be eligible for special education services through Michigan's Administrative Rules for Special Education and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B.

### Who is eligible?

Children **ages three through five** who have a disability under one of the categories of eligibility listed below:

- Speech and Language Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Cognitive Impairment
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Emotional Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Visual Impairment
- Deaf-Blindness
- Physical Impairment
- Early Childhood Developmental Delay
- Severe Multiple Impairment
- Other Health Impairment (e.g., attention deficit disorder; health problems such as asthma, epilepsy, and diabetes)

### How can children receive services?

You have an important role in helping families connect to Build Up services. The first step when you have a developmental concern about a preschooler is to talk with the family.

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1. **Have Concerns:** A parent or legal guardian can request an evaluation for preschool special education eligibility. Partner with the family to get connected to their local Build Up Coordinator.
2. **Evaluation and Eligibility Determination:** A team then conducts an evaluation of the child's individual abilities and needs and determines eligibility, if appropriate.
3. **Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Development:** A parent or guardian of the child participates in a meeting to develop the child's IEP. An IEP is a legal document that contains information on:
  - » The child's levels of participation in age-level activities
  - » Developmental goals
  - » Services that will be provided
  - » The projected start date for services
4. **Provision of Services:** Special education services and supports are provided to the child according to the IEP. An IEP should detail the most effective way to support a child's development and learning needs. It also offers strategies for assessing their progress and development. With an IEP in place, programs and services begin in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE). For most children, child care and preschool programs may be the LRE.

### Questions?

Contact Build Up at [buildupmi.org](http://buildupmi.org) or by calling 1-800-320-8384