

## Child and Family Connections (CFC)

### What is CFC?

**Child & Family Connections (CFC)** is the starting point for the referral of all children under 36 months of age to the Part C Early Intervention Service System in Illinois. With 25 sites covering all of Illinois, each CFC must ensure that all children eligible for services receive them.

Each CFC office is staffed with the following personnel:

- **Program Manager**
- **Service Coordinator**
- **Parent Liaison**

The staff is responsible for ensuring that:

- all of the opportunities under the Part C Early Intervention Services System are made available to families,
- families are provided accurate and timely information about their options, and
- families receive thorough information regarding their rights under federal and state law.



### What is Early Intervention?

**Part C Early Intervention (E.I.)** refers to the statewide system which finds and helps eligible children. Developmental screenings and evaluations are arranged for children under 36 months at no cost to families. 16 services are available as needed to families of eligible children in the State of Illinois. These services include:

- Assistive technology and devices
- Audiology
- Developmental therapy
- Family training, counseling, home visits

- Health consultation
- Medical services (diagnostic/evaluation purposes only)
- Nursing
- Nutrition
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological & other counseling services
- Service coordination
- Social work & other counseling services
- Speech/Language therapy
- Transportation to services
- Vision services

### **How does the process begin?**

Referrals to Child and Family Connections can be made by a family member, doctor, daycare provider, or anyone concerned about the development of a child under 36 months. With your phone call to your local Child and Family Connections, the door opens.

### **Who is the Service Coordinator?**

A Service Coordinator (SC) contacts the child's family to set up a meeting to obtain information, as well as written permission from the parent/legal guardian to proceed. The SC will help the family understand their rights under Part C, including the right to a free evaluation. The SC will help the family choose when and where the evaluation will take place. Once a child is determined eligible, the SC will explain the service options available in the area, and will assist the family in determining desired outcomes (goals) for their child's development through the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and then link families to services. The SC provides on-going support and service coordination while the child is receiving services.

If a child is found ineligible for Early Intervention Services, the SC and the Parent Liaison will help the family identify other resources to meet their needs.

## Who is the Parent Liaison?

A Parent Liaison is the parent of a child who has received Early Intervention services. A Parent Liaison recognizes, from intimate and personal experience, the unique concerns parents of a child or children with special needs share, and can:

- offer direct support to family members at any time during the process, through and including transition to 3 year old services, either in person or over the phone;
- act as a resource for parents, connecting them to other parents, support groups, alternative therapies, etc., as family needs are identified;
- assist families in finding training opportunities and resources to learn how best to help their child and family;
- provide consultation and resources to Early Intervention team members and providers regarding family perspectives on best practices for services and systems development.

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **How do I get started?** Contact Clearbrook's CFC Program Coordinator at 847-385-5070 to begin the process.