

## Early Start (ages 0-3 years) Intake Process

Referrals to Early Start Intake can be made by phone, fax, or email:

Phone #: (213) 744-8807, (213) 744-8809, (213) 744-7068

Fax#: (213) 947-4115

Email: [earlystartintake@sclarc.org](mailto:earlystartintake@sclarc.org)

The Early Start Intake Unit receives intake referrals for infants and toddlers between the ages of birth to 36 months of age when there are concerns of developmental delays or disabilities. After a referral is received, the Intake Assistant assigns the intake case to an Intake Service Coordinator to schedule a home or office visit with the family to complete a developmental evaluation and psychosocial assessment. Additional assessments, such as speech, occupational therapy, or physical therapy evaluations may also be arranged.

These assessments provide the family and the Regional Center with developmental information that is used to determine eligibility and appropriate individualized services and supports. Each infant or toddler is unique, and the types of services and supports will vary depending on the needs of the child.

### Early Start Eligibility Criteria

Infants and toddlers from birth to age 36 months may be eligible for early intervention services through Early Start if, through documented evaluation and assessment, they meet one of the criteria listed below:

1. have a 33% or greater developmental delay in one or more areas of either cognitive, communication, social or emotional, adaptive, or physical and motor development including vision and hearing; or
2. have an established risk condition of known etiology, with a high probability of resulting in delayed development; or
3. be considered at high risk of having a substantial developmental disability due to a combination of biomedical risk factors of which are diagnosed by qualified personnel

### Solely Low Incidence Disabilities

A solely low incidence disability is defined as one or a combination of low incidence disabilities which are **vision** impairment, severe **orthopedic** impairment, and **hearing** impairment which is the primary disability and has a significant impact on learning and development.

Infants and toddlers with solely low incidence disabilities are not eligible for services from a Regional Center and should be referred to the local education agencies (LEA's) for early intervention services.