

## 4. What is the role of the SLP in EI?

The SLP functions as an integral member of the team which includes the family. After a comprehensive evaluation and assessment, outcomes/goals are established. The SLP, as a member of the team, (a) provides information regarding speech, language, social communication and feeding/swallowing risk factors, development, and disorders and, (b) participates in the design and implementation, directly or through consultation, in interventions that are coordinated within the overall Individual Family Service Plan/Individual Education Plan (IFSP/IEP).

For additional information and to access a copy of *Early Intervention Infant/Toddler, Preschool, and Family Guidelines: Speech and Language Services* go to [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

## 5. Why would you want to be an SLP in EI in PA?

Providing Early Intervention services in PA enables therapists to guide families and other caregivers in the early stages of the communication process. Through the current Early Intervention model, SLPs consistently support families and other caregivers throughout their child's speech and language development and

often develop strong relationships with them. In addition, the SLP is provided significant opportunities to collaborate and consult with other team members. Early Intervention is also a very flexible model for scheduling, as therapists individually schedule with families based on family and child needs. Additionally, the program is referral based, providing ample opportunities for flexible scheduling and part time to full time opportunities.

## 6. How do I get started?

You can contact your local county Infant/Toddler or Preschool Early Intervention program directly. Most Infant/Toddler Early Intervention Programs are operated by the county. Most preschool programs are operated by the local Intermediate Unit or School District. You can also inquire at your local university program and request a field experience in Early Intervention. For information on Infant/Toddler or Preschool Early Intervention programs, contact:

### CONNECT

(Information Service for Early Intervention)  
Center for Schools and Communities  
275 Grandview Avenue, Suite 200  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
800-692-7288  
(For TTY, dial 711 for Relay Service)

# Becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) in Early Intervention in Pennsylvania



The Pennsylvania State Advisory Council on Personnel Shortages (PSAC-PS) in Speech-Language Pathology has developed this set of frequently asked questions for SLPs who may want to seek employment in Early Intervention in Pennsylvania. We hope this will serve to answer some preliminary questions that potential employees may have. For further information, contact: Stacy Antoniadis, Consultant, Early Intervention Technical Assistance at [stacya@pattan.net](mailto:stacya@pattan.net)

# FAQs About Employment in Early Intervention (EI) in PA

## 1. What does EI look like in Pennsylvania?

Through a unique collaboration between the Departments of Education (PDE) and Public Welfare (DPW), the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) administers the Commonwealth's Early Intervention Program for eligible infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. At a local level, the county Early Intervention programs administer the program for infants from birth to three years of age. The OCDEL contracts services through Intermediate Units (IU), school districts, and private agencies for local services to pre-schoolers from three years of age to the age of beginners. When a child turns three years of age, responsibility for funding Early Intervention services moves from DPW to PDE.

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children who have developmental delays. Early Intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in those first few years. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, service providers, and others significantly involved with the child.

## 2. What does a SLP need to know to work in EI in Pennsylvania?

There are certain guiding principles that lay the foundation for making appropriate decisions regarding speech and language services and supports. These principles provide the basis for Early Intervention in Pennsylvania. Early Intervention:

- Provides supports and services to infants/ toddlers and young children with disabilities and their families/caregivers so that they may help the child grow and develop;
- Embeds supports and services within learning opportunities that exist in the child's typical routines and within the home and community activities and/or early education programs;
- Builds on existing supports and services in the family, community, and early education resources;
- Provides coordinated, flexible supports and services through personnel working collaboratively with the family and each other;

- Provides supports and services focused on the family and child's transition between and among early education programs.
- For a copy of *Early Intervention Supports and Services*, go to [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)

## 3. What certification/ credentials and on-going professional development requirements are needed to work in EI in PA?

Information on the qualifications for SLPs working in Early Intervention in Pennsylvania is contained within Announcement EI-09#17 which was published on 10/5/09. To access this Announcement go to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website at [www.pde.state.pa.us](http://www.pde.state.pa.us) and search for "Announcements".

