

What is ECI?

ECI stands for Early Childhood Intervention. There are local ECI programs all over the state of Texas. No matter what Texas county you live in, an ECI program is available to your family if your infant or toddler needs help.

The first years of a baby's life are the most important for brain development. During this time, the brain develops faster, and the learning skills acquired help the child build a foundation for future learning, behavior, and health.

For more than 35 years, ECI has helped thousands of families and their children in Texas.

How to get started?

Refer a Child

Anyone can make a referral - parents, doctors, childcare providers, grandparents, foster parents or others. To be eligible, a child must:

- Be from birth to 36 months
- Live in Texas
- Have one of the following:
 - A developmental delay of 25% or more significant one or more areas of development
 - A qualifying medical diagnosis
 - A hearing or vision impairment

OUR MISSION:

We strive to deliver accessible, caring, and responsive support services to individuals and families coping with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, developmental delays, and emotional conflict.

Business Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Staff photo from Halloween 2022

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION (ECI)



Klaras Children's Center
Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
6400 Imperial Dr,
Waco, TX 76712
Telephone: 254-297-7089

Who are we?

This unit is staffed with KCC ECI specialists and licensed therapists. These specialists serve children; ages birth through three years, who are developmentally delayed or have medical conditions likely to result in delay, including hearing and vision concerns. Services are primarily delivered in “natural environments,” such as the child’s home or childcare. Over 800 children receive services.

Who do we serve?

The Klaras Children’s Center ECI (KCC ECI) serves families of children birth to third birthday who:

- Are lagging behind peers on developmental milestones such as walking and talking
- Have a medical diagnosis associated with developmental problems

More specifically, children who are experiencing problems with:

- Sitting, walking and using hands
- Behavior, calming and sleeping
- Feeding/eating
- Interacting with others
- Understanding & talking
- Making eye contact/paying attention
- Playing appropriately with toys
- And much more!

Counties Served



Services

Licensed or credentialed professionals provide:

- Physical therapy
- Speech-language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Specialized skills training
- Case management
- Family education and training
- Audiology and vision services
- Nursing and nutrition services
- Assistive technology
- Counseling

Cost of Services

Families of all income levels receive services. No family is turned away because they are unable to pay. ECI does ask families to share in the cost of services if they can afford to do so.

The checklist below tells you some behaviors that could mean your child needs help. If your child displays 2 or 3 of these behaviors on a consistent basis, call your local ECI program today.

- hits, bites, and kicks others for no apparent reason
- tantrums excessively
- overly destructive or aggressive
- out of control
- refuses to ride in a car seat
- pulls own hair, bites self, or bangs own head
- spins self in circles and spins wheels on toys constantly
- cannot take their eyes off a ceiling fan
- does not play appropriately with toys
- flaps their hands
- flicks toys or other objects
- gags on food almost every day
- puts everything into their mouth after 15 months of age
- addicted to TV, videos, DVDs
- poor eye contact or lack of eye contact except when they want to look at you
- does not like to be touched or cuddled even when sleepy or not feeling well
- cannot stand noisy places
- cannot go out into public without significant problems
- does not understand what you say after 16 months of age
- does not interact with others in their little world
- got kicked out of childcare
- makes only repetitive sounds like “dee-dul-dee-dul-dee-dul-dee-dul”
- overly concerned with lining things up
- cannot tolerate walking barefoot in the grass
- cannot tolerate getting hands dirty
- does not point or communicate wants/needs after 16 months of age
- loss of speech or other skills at any age
- does not sleep well
- is “too good of a baby” when less than a year old, requiring little or no attention from you to be happy
- cannot vary their routine without major behavior problems
- seems to feel no pain
- does not capture your attention with a toy, wanting you to look at it with them
- does not play turn-take games like saying sounds or words back and forth with you
- if your child is doing anything unusual to you or other family members that you are worried about, we offer services to anyone.