

## **Montana Milestones/Part C of IDEA Early Intervention Program**

Montana Milestones is a program of early intervention services for children with delays and disabilities ages 0-36 months. Early intervention services and supports are provided in the child's most natural environment to help families support and promote their child's development within their family activities and community life. Families with children who meet the eligibility criteria established by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services are entitled to a range of services defined by federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

### **Who is eligible?**

Children from birth to age three who meet the following criteria:

- Diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay; or
- 50% developmental delay in one area of development or a 25% delay in two or more areas of development: physical (motor, vision and hearing), cognitive (thinking ability), communication (speech and language), social-emotional (interaction with others) or adaptive (self-help skills).

### **What services are offered?**

Montana Milestones/Part C of IDEA Early Intervention services are delivered as part of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed by a multidisciplinary team in cooperation with the family. Each family receives service coordination provided by a Family Support Specialist at least monthly in a face-to-face visit. Based upon assessed need, services available:

Assistive Technology  
Audiology  
Family training/counseling  
Health  
Medical  
Nursing  
Nutrition  
Occupational therapy  
Physical therapy  
Speech therapy  
Psychological  
Sign language and cued language services  
Social work services  
Special instruction  
Transportation and related costs  
Vision services

Supports and services are provided at a frequency necessary to achieve the identified child and family outcomes in the IFSP.

### **How is a referral made?**

Any concerned person, parent, or agency may make a referral on behalf of a child who may appear to have a developmental delay. Referrals may be made if there are *any* questions or concerns about a child's development. Permission from the parent or legal guardian is required to make a referral. Any child meeting eligibility requirements is entitled to Part C of IDEA supports and services.

### **Want more information?**

Montana Milestones/Part C of IDEA website:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities/PartC-EarlyInt>

## **Family Education & Support (FES) Program**

Family Education & Support services helps families of children with special needs by enhancing the knowledge and skills of children and their families to achieve success in life. The families, in partnership with a Family Support Specialist/Service Coordinator (FSS), develop goals to work on in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Each family receives service coordination provided by a Family Support Specialist in at least bi-monthly face-to-face visits up to age 16. The following services may be available but are limited to the funding available:

Assistive Technology  
Audiology  
Family training/counseling  
Health  
Medical  
Nursing  
Nutrition  
Occupational therapy  
Physical therapy  
Speech therapy  
Psychological  
**Respite** (Respite services are available only for children and families enrolled in FES)  
Sign language and cued language services  
Social work services  
Special instruction  
Transportation and related costs  
Vision services

### **Who is eligible?**

- Children age three up to their eighth birthday who have two or more areas of development with a 25% or more delay, or one or more areas of development delayed by at least 50%: physical (motor, vision and hearing), cognitive (thinking ability), communication (speech and language), social-emotional (interaction with others) or adaptive (self-help skills).
- Children and adults age eight up to their twenty-first birthday determined to have an intellectual disability (IQ 70 or below) by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Developmental Disabilities Program Eligibility Specialist.

### **How is a referral made?**

Any concerned person, parent, or agency may make a referral on behalf of a child who may appear to have a developmental delay. Referrals may be made if there are *any* questions or concerns about a child's development. Permission from the parent or legal guardian is required to make a referral.

Children in this program will also be eligible for special education services, so children are usually receiving services through local schools as well as the Family Education & Support Program. Regional providers maintain a waiting list for this program.

### **Want more information?**

Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program website:  
<http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities>