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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

**DATE:** February 25, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP) to support the State Board of Education agenda item *Permission to Adopt: Proposed Licensing Regulations for Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program COMAR 13A.15, 13A.16, 13A.17, and 13A.18.*

### **Background**

The MITP is the state's early intervention program, consistent with Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (EI&SE), is the state lead agency for the MITP. In this role, MSDE provides leadership, accountability, technical assistance, and resource management to the twenty-four (24) local Infants and Toddlers Programs (LITPs). HB 0664, passed in the 2022 session, requires childcare programs to provide parents or guardians of children under the age of three with information about the MITP and contact information for the local agency responsible for administering the program. The Bill also requires the childcare program to assist a parent or guardian with scheduling a time and location for the program to provide certain developmental screening.

### **Executive Summary**

This presentation provides information on the following:

- The importance and goals of early intervention.
- The structure of early intervention programs and services in the MITP.
- Demographic and impact data from children and families in the MITP.
- Resources for families and requirements for childcare providers.

### **Action**

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

### **Attachments**

MITP slides for the State Board.pptx

DIVISION OF EARLY INTERVENTION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES (EI&SE)

# The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP)

February 25, 2025

Presented By | Antoine Hickman, Ed.D. Assistant State Superintendent

## Why Early Intervention?

In 1986, Congress found “an urgent and substantial need to:

- **Enhance the development of infants and toddlers** with disabilities, to minimize their potential for developmental delay, and to recognize the significant brain development that occurs during a child’s **first 3 years of life**;
- To reduce educational costs ... by **minimizing the need for special education** and related services after [these children] reach school age;
- To **maximize** the potential for individuals with disabilities to **live independently** in society;
- **To enhance the capacity of families** to meet their special needs of their infants and toddlers with disabilities"

*20 U.S.C. 1431 (b)(1), P.L. 108-446.*

# Goals of Early Intervention

## For Children

To enable young children to be **active and successful** participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings – in their homes with their families, in childcare, preschool or school programs, and in the community

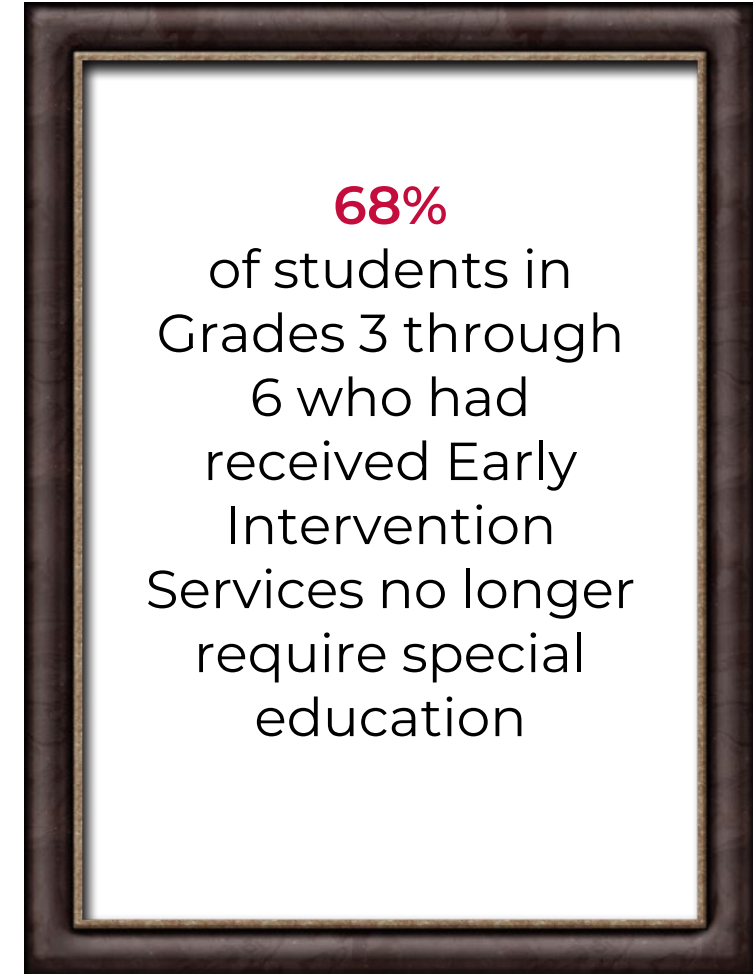
## For Families

To enable families to **provide care** for their child and have the resources they need to participate in their own desired family and community activities

## The Big Picture

Timely, high-quality early intervention services **CHANGE THE TRAJECTORY** of children's and families' lives!

- Children **develop critical skills** that enhance participation which supports development
- Children are **better prepared** for school
- Families are **supported and equipped** to meet their children's needs

A dark brown, double-lined rectangular frame containing white text. The text is centered and reads: "68% of students in Grades 3 through 6 who had received Early Intervention Services no longer require special education".

**68%**  
of students in  
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education

## Early Intervention in Maryland

- Statewide system implemented through **24 local inter-agency programs**
- **No Cost** to families and provided in a timely manner (no wait lists)
- **Family-centered** and provided in natural environments
  - Focuses on **family priorities**
  - Targets **skills and behaviors** of the child or the parents/caregivers
  - Occurs at home (89%), in childcare or the community (10%)  
– rarely in a clinical setting (< 1%)

# Who Receives Early Intervention

Children **from Birth – Age Three** who:

- Demonstrate a **development delay of at least 25%** relative to chronological age in at least one developmental area:
  - Cognition
  - Language/Communication
  - Motor
  - Social Emotional
  - Adaptive
- OR
- Demonstrate **atypical development** that interferes with their current development and is likely to result in a delay in the future
- OR
- Have a **diagnosed physical or mental condition** that has a high probability of leading to developmental delay

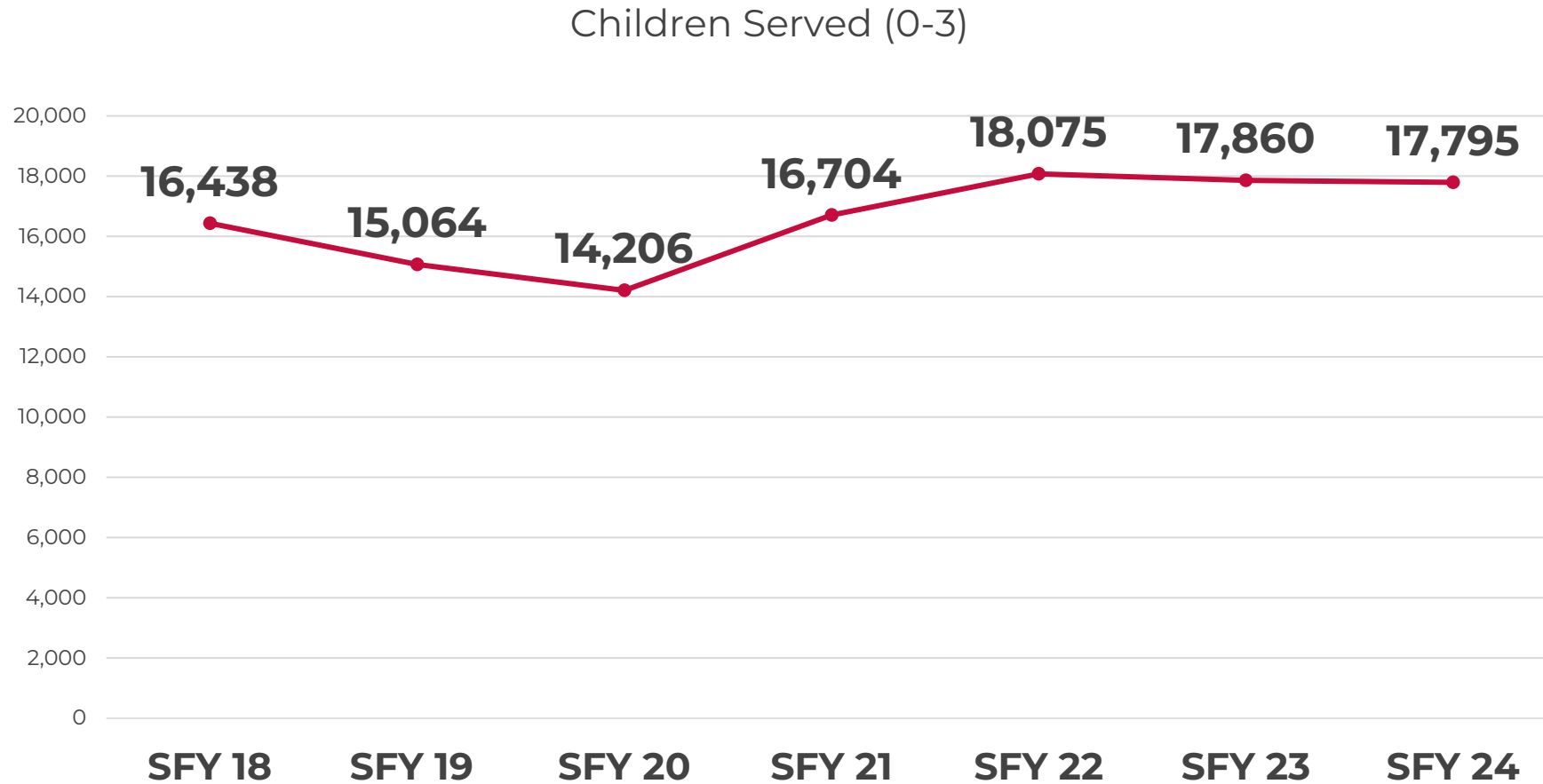
## Maryland's Extended Option

At age 3, families choose:

- Transition to services on an IEP **or**
- Continue in EI on an Extended IFSP
- Choosing the Extended Option offers:
  - Ongoing focus on caregiver capacity building
  - Continuity of services with home-based options
  - Natural transition to Pre-K
- Approximately **50%** of eligible families **choose** the extended option, but not all remain until PreK.



# Enrollment in Early Intervention Over Time

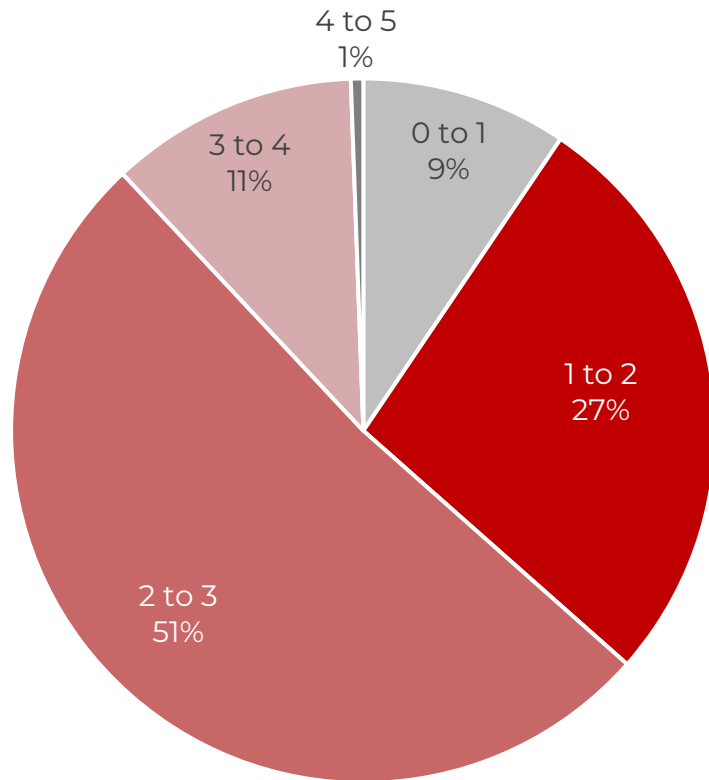


Source: Maryland Online IFSP

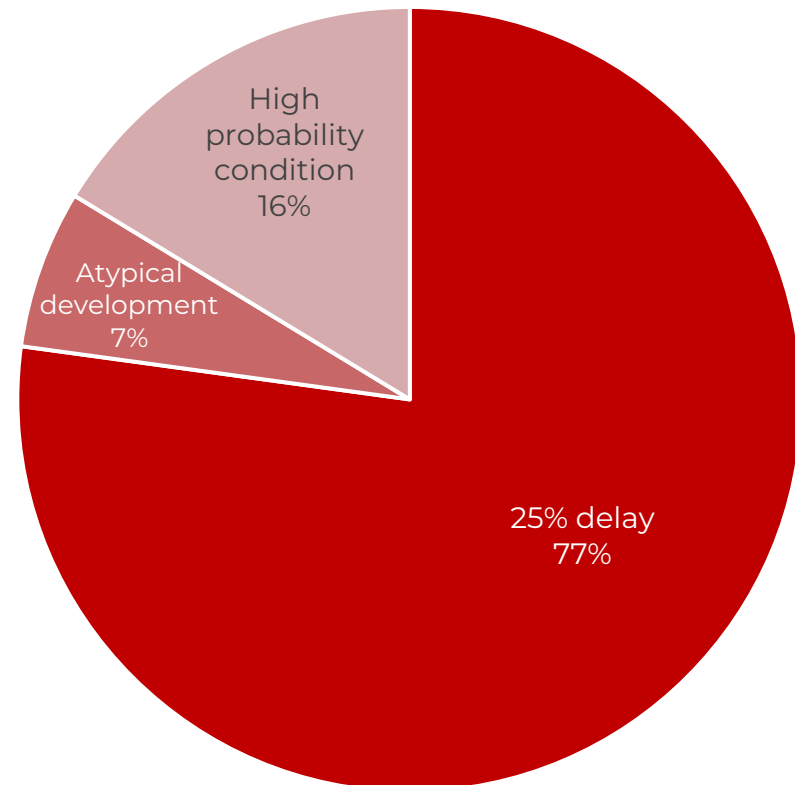
# Children Served (2024)

In total, 22,088 children received services from the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP)

Children Served by Age Range



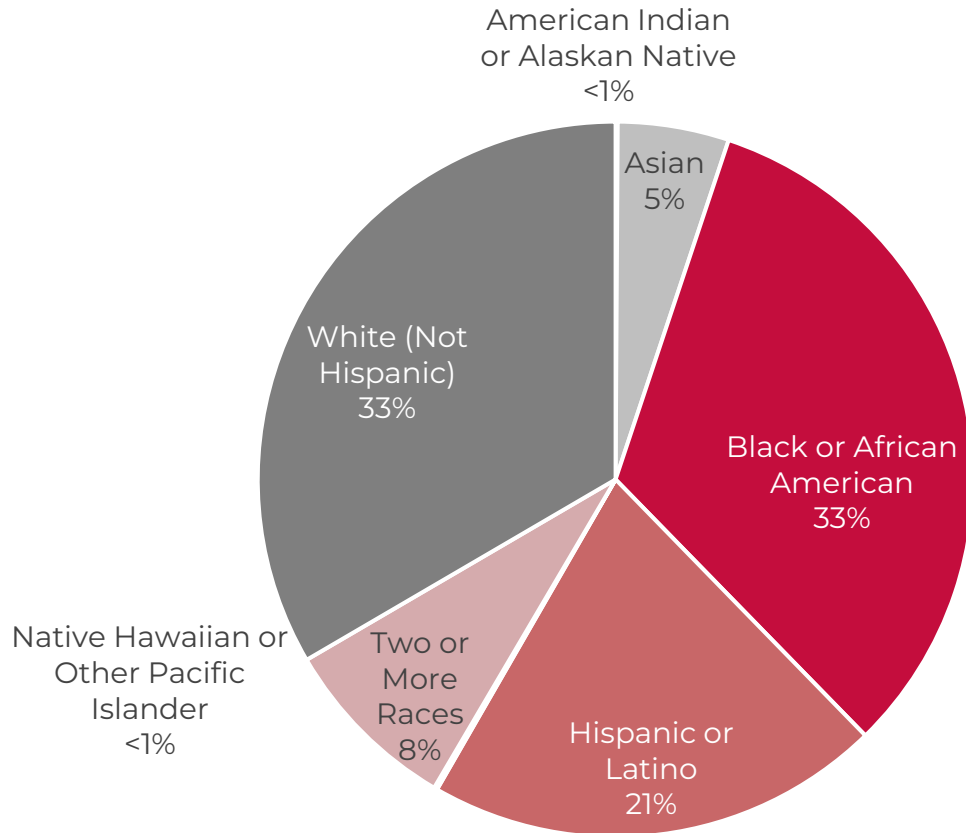
Children Served by Eligibility Category



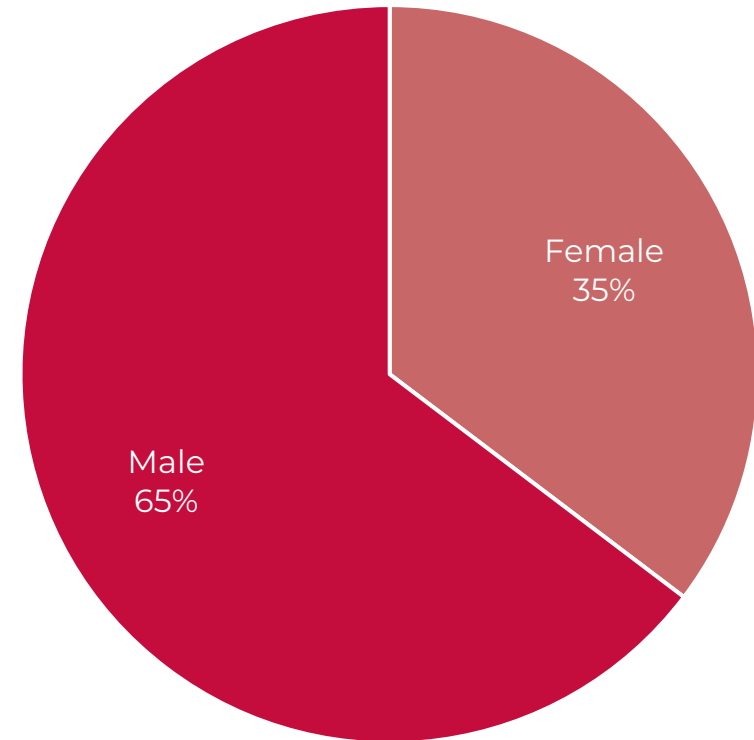
Source: Maryland Online IFSP

# Children Served (SFY 2024)

Children Served by Race



Children Served by Gender



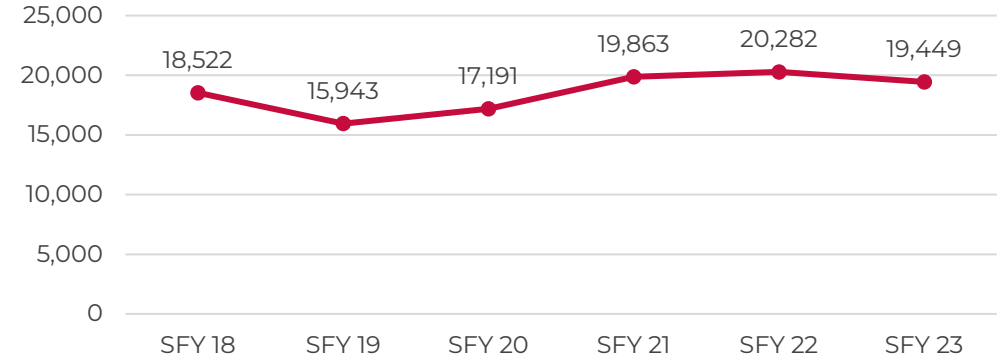
Source: Maryland Online IFSP

# Referrals to Early Intervention

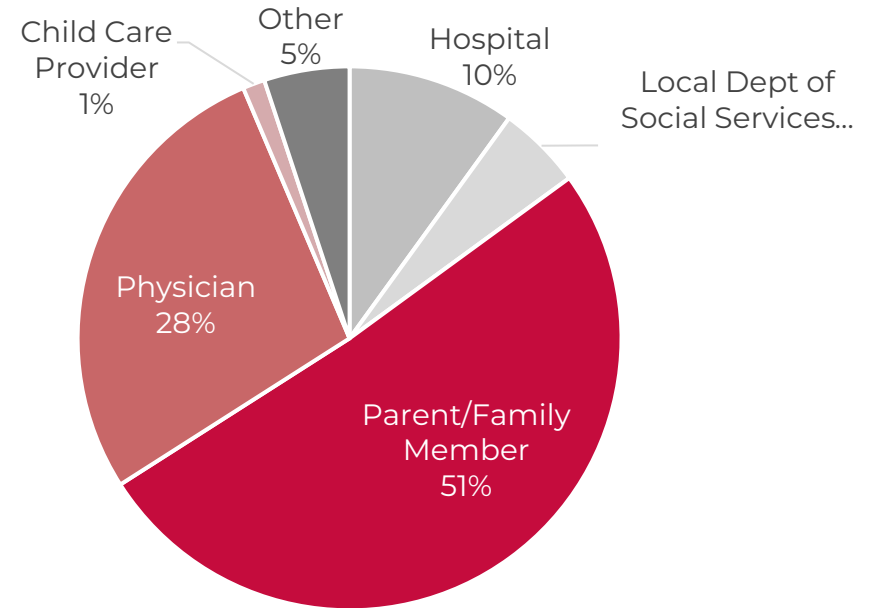
- Most children are referred by their parents/family members (**51%**)
- Medical providers are the next most prevalent source (**38%**)
- Referrals also come from:
  - Local Departments of Social Services
  - Childcare providers
  - Other public agencies (e.g., Judy Centers, school systems, etc.)

Source: Maryland Online IFSP

## MITP Referrals Received



## Referral Sources SFY 2024



## Early Intervention Services

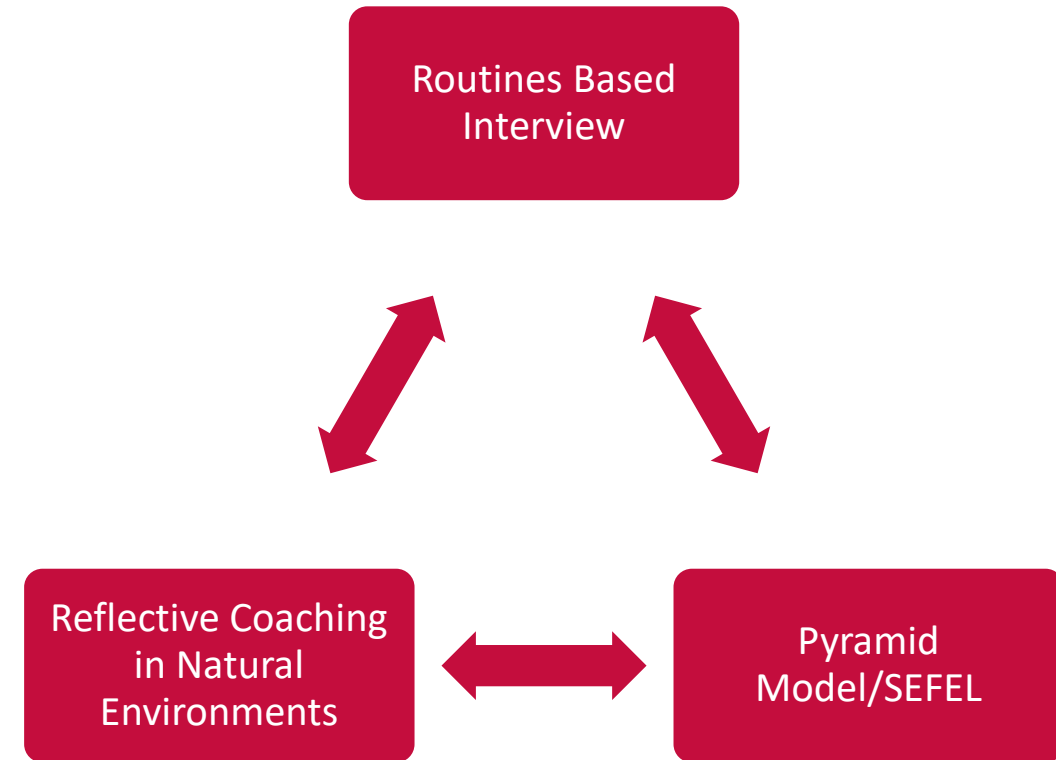
### Individualized Family Service Plans

- Authentic **assessment** of child's functioning and family's routines
- **Outcomes driven** by family priorities
- Collaborative **team-based** approach: special educators, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, other specialists
- All children and families receive **service coordination**
- **Leveraging** family strengths and connecting to additional resources is key

# Evidence-Based Practices in Early Intervention

Strategies for the delivery of services Birth – Five that promote positive outcomes for children and families

- Grounded in **research** across settings and over time
- Focused on **integrated, family-centered** service delivery
- Supported by national **experts**
- Implemented by local programs with **resources and coaching** from the State



# Impact of Early Intervention

## For Children

- Children in MITP who made as much or more progress than typically developing peers:
  - Forming positive relationships – **65%**
  - Using knowledge and skills – **67%**
  - Meeting their needs appropriately – **66%**

## For Families

- **97%** of parents agree that the early intervention program helped them “know their rights”
- **96%** agree that EI helped them “effectively communicate their child’s needs”
- **97%** agree that EI “helped their children develop and learn”

Source: Maryland Online IFSP and Maryland SPP/APR

# Sharing information with Families



**WE BEGIN EARLY TO FINISH STRONG**

**WORRIED ABOUT A BABY OR TODDLER YOU KNOW?**

- Does your child have trouble participating in everyday activities like eating, dressing, and playing?
- Do you wonder if your granddaughter should be talking more?
- Does a toddler in your child care program hit, kick, bite, and cry more than you expect for children their age?
- Has your baby received a medical diagnosis that affects their growth and learning?

**Anyone can submit a referral to the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program.** If the child lives in Maryland and hasn't turned three yet, MITP can help.

**referral.mditp.org**  
**1-800-535-0182**

**The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP) can help!**

MITP provides free, family-centered support for children from birth to age three. Children with medical conditions that can impact their development in the future may be eligible to receive support now. Children who are not receiving support now, children who are not moving, communicating, learning, interacting with others, or participating in daily activities like others of the same age may also be eligible, even if they don't have a diagnosis. A free assessment of the child's development is provided to determine if they are eligible for services.

Anyone – a parent, child care provider, doctor, grandparent, nurse, friend, or other relative – can refer a child to MITP.

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**Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program**  
Supporting young children with developmental delays and disabilities and their families

**Maryland STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



**INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT**

The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP) is here to help you help your child grow and learn. Infants and Toddlers Program services will:

- Build on your child's and family's strengths
- Address your goals and concerns in a way that works for your family
- Help you learn about your child's needs and the resources available to your family

The teachers, therapists, and other providers will come to you at home, at child care, at the library, or other places your family spends time. They will coach and support you to help your child participate and develop new skills. They will connect you with other resources in the community.

**WORKING TOGETHER**

Helping babies and toddlers develop to their maximum potential is a team effort! Families are the key to their children's growth and learning. Physicians, child care providers, nurses, social workers, and other people who work with children are also important.

Anyone who works with or knows a child and has concerns can submit a referral to the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program. Child care providers are also required by State law to provide information to families each year about Early Intervention and to help families schedule evaluations.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. Visit [referral.mditp.org](http://referral.mditp.org) to learn more information and to complete an online referral. You can also call 1-800-535-0182 to get contact information for your local Infants and Toddlers Program. You can make the referral over the phone if you prefer.
2. After the referral, someone from the local Infants and Toddlers program will call you. You will share information about your child's development and any concerns. An appointment for a developmental screening or evaluation will be scheduled.
3. The evaluation will take place in your home or another location if you prefer. The team will ask you questions about your child and observe how they move, communicate, and play.
4. If your child is eligible for services, you will become a part of the early intervention team. Together you will develop a plan. **All evaluations and services are provided free of charge! You give your permission for all assessments and services, and you can stop or change services at any time.**

<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Special-Ed/rmmb/Maryland-Infants-and-Toddlers-Program-Brochure-A.pdf>



# Sharing Information with Families: Proposed Regulation

Division of Early Childhood Proposed Regulatory Amendments to COMAR 13A.15, 13A.16, 13A.17, and 13A.18

- Licensed childcare programs in Maryland will be **required to provide** families who have children under age 3 with information about MITP annually.
- Programs can fulfill this requirement through multiple communication channels, including personal messages, documented handouts with confirmation of receipt, or text messages, ensuring the information **reaches all families** effectively.

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program**  
Supporting young children with...

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national...

# Statewide Online Referral System

## Make a Referral



### ONLINE REFERRAL

Submit an *online referral* by creating an account and completing a short questionnaire.



### PHONE CALL TO LOCAL PROGRAM

Select *this link* to view the contact information for the single point of entry for each of the 24 local programs in Maryland.



### FAX TO LOCAL PROGRAM

Select *this link* to download the Infants and Toddlers referral to complete and fax to the county in which the family resides.

**MDITP.ORG**