

EARLY SERVICES FOR YOUR CHILD CAN LAST A LIFETIME

You have been talking, playing, and just observing your child. You feel a little unsure with your child's development so you talk with your child's doctor and share your concerns. The doctor may refer you to an Early-On/Early Intervention program and/or to your local school district. Early –On or other Early Intervention programs are for children birth through two years old who may be suspected of having a developmental delay or disability. You as a parent can also make a referral. Early evaluation and services can lead to a successful future for your child over a lifetime.

Once a child has been evaluated and certified with a disability, under the law called the Individuals with Disabilities Act ([IDEA](#)), it states: *All children with disabilities have the right to have available to them a free and appropriate public education that includes special education and related services designed to meet the child's needs and prepare them for further education.*

Under [IDEA](#) there are safeguards designed to protect the rights of the child with disabilities and their parents/guardians, some of the safeguards, just to name a few, are as follows:

- **Parents have the right to participate in all meetings about their child**
- **Parents have the right to examine all of their child's education records**
- **Parents have the right to obtain an independent education evaluation for their child**
- **Tests and evaluations must be given in the child's native language or mode of communication**
- **Tests and evaluations must not be culturally or racially discriminatory**

Remember, early services can lead to a successful future.