

What is Early Childhood Intervention

Early childhood Intervention services help to strengthen development of the body and in the development of movement, speech, perception, senses and self care. Such services are offered to infants and children of preschool age (until 6 years old) who have developmental problems or disorders. In addition, any comprehensive system of **Early Childhood Intervention** includes support and guidance to the family.

Early Childhood Intervention aims at preventing and lessening the degree of dependence that may develop in children with intellectual impairment and other disorder. The early provision of the appropriate services has subsequent positive effects on increasing independence in individuals with special needs, the improvement in the quality of life as an adult and the relief to the family from continuous care and support.

In addition **Early Childhood Intervention** promises a decrease in social benefits by the state because the person becomes more capable to cope with his/her life.

The Early Childhood Intervention Officer

The **Early Childhood Intervention** Officer is the link between the family/user of services and the provider of services. When an officer is informed regarding a child she makes direct contact with the family. Specifically, the Early Childhood Intervention Officer is concerned with:

- Exploring the needs of the family of the child
- Providing information to the parents regarding available services in both the public and private sectors and from voluntary organizations
- Organizing and following up all interventions offered to the child/-family
- Promoting financial help and other rights
- Coordinating meetings between specialist services regarding child evaluations or appropriateness of therapies
- Support and the provision of counselling services for parents and other members of the family
- Empowerment of parents so that they are able to play a central role in making decisions for the benefit of their child

The Early Intervention Officer does not herself/himself offer treatment programs but bearing in mind the situation of the family carries out the above mentioned. These services are carried out with **discretion** and **confidentiality**.

Who refers to the Early Childhood Intervention Services

- The Archbishop Makarios III Hospital in Nicosia
- Paediatricians working in local hospitals
- Paediatricians working in the private sector
- General nursing staff, health visitors, psychiatric services
- Therapists in the public and private sector (physiotherapists, speech therapists, special teachers)
- Therapy centres, non governmental organizations, voluntary organizations
- Social Welfare Services
- Schools, nurseries (public, community and private)
- Parents organisations

The Coordinating Early Childhood Intervention Services

The Coordinating service was recommended following the decision of the government council on 31/10/01. A pilot program started from June 2003 until May 2005 with funding from the Government Department of Labour and Social Insurance.

The service restarted in September 2006 and now employs three officers for Cyprus in Nicosia, Limassol/Paphos and Larnaca/Ammochostos.

The **Coordinating Early Childhood Intervention** Services is offered by the Committee of the Protection of Rights of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

Other partners in the service

- Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance: Social Welfare services
- Ministry of Health: Child neurology clinic and clinic of Genetics at Makarios III Hospital, Health Visitor Services
- Ministry of Education and Culture: Special Education Services
Educational Psychology Services
- Pancyprian Parents Association for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- Cyprus Paediatric Neurology Institute

Additional services cooperating:

- Local Authorities
Municipality of Aradippou
Municipality of Kato Polemidia
- Paediatric Association

The Coordinating Early Childhood Intervention Service

How is a referral made:

A referral can be made by telephone or by fax to the numbers below:

Nicosia (central offices)

Committee of the Protection of Rights of People with Intellectual Disabilities

Tel: 99 540406

22 871325 / 333

Fax: 22 429544

E-mail: earlyintervention@cytanet.com.cy

www.cpmental.com.cy

Larnaca/Ammochostos

Aradippou Town Hall

Tel: 99 540407

24 813010

Fax: 24 811072

Limassol/Paphos

Kato Polemidia Town Hall

Tel: 99 540408 / 25 396699

Fax: 25 396699

Co - Ordinating Early Childhood Intervention Service

**For young children
with developmental
disorder**



Committee for the
Protection of the
Rights of People
with a Mental
Handicap