Early Start Program (ESP)
A Pathway to Access Regional Center and/or Education Services for Children with Developmental Delays

Any child less than 3 years old

Preform Developmental Surveillance (history including milestones and functioning) and Developmental Screening Test (such as ASQ, PEDS, BINS; at least at ages 9, 18, 24, and 30 months)

Child fails developmental screening test
Child has one condition known to compromise development:
- Down Syndrome
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)
- Autism
- other genetic or metabolic disease

≥ 25% delay in one or more domains:
- cognitive
- physical
- expressive communication
- receptive communication
- social or emotional
- adaptive

Child has two or more high risk factors:
- < GA 32 weeks or 1500 grams
- ventilation > 48 hrs
- SGA
- asphyxia neonatorum
- metabolic abnormality
- seizures
- CNS lesion/infection
- biomedical insult
- multiple anomalies
- exposure to teratogens
- failure to thrive
- hypo or hypertonia

Child only has “solely low incidence condition”:
- hearing loss
- vision impairment
- orthopedic conditions

Child has CP, neuromuscular or musculoskeletal problems

Child has no conditions, no risk factors, and passes screen

Refer to local Regional Center for ESP
Refer to County Office of Education for ESP

Refer to local Regional Center for ESP

Refer to ESP and Private Therapy (PT, OT, ST)
Consider DBP evaluation

Monitor closely and follow AAP screening recommendations

July 1, 2023