

Early Intervention services in Nova Scotia are changing!
We are becoming...

Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services



Supporting families of young children with developmental delays

Starting October 1, 2015

An exciting change is happening with Early Intervention services in Nova Scotia. A provincial review of Early Intervention services took place last year by the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, and important recommendations were made to improve services and support for families.

(<https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/documents/EarlyInterventionReview.pdf>).

One of the recommendations included the re-organization of our administrative structure. The 17 separately run Early Intervention Programs across the province are being re-organized into one coordinated program. This change will help to improve consistency of services across the province, improve access to Early Intervention services for underserved populations, and reduce waiting times for families.

We are working hard to make this change as smooth as possible for children and families. Although the administrative structure of the program will change, it is important to note that the core services will remain the same, and where and how Early Intervention services are accessed will not change.

There are also two changes in names we want to let you know about. First, the new coordinated program will now be called **Early Childhood Development Intervention Services**. Also, Early Interventionists (EIs) will now be called **Developmental Interventionists (DIs)**.

For more information on our services please see page 2

For information on referrals to our services and contact information, please see page 3.



Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services are offered in **8 regions** across the province **within 22 locations**.

The NS Department of Education & Early Childhood Development funds Early Childhood Development Intervention Services to provide specialized services to families of young children between birth and school entry who are either at biological risk for, or have a diagnosis of, developmental delay. Consultation, information, support and services designed to meet the individual needs of each child and family are delivered in the child's home and may expand to community based programs.

1. Child Development:

NS Early Childhood

Development Intervention Services support families in enhancing their child's development through the following services:

- a) Information gathering and observation
- b) Development of a child profile across various settings
- c) Development of an individual family service plan (IFSP)
- d) Development of Routine Based Intervention Plans (RBIP)
- e) Ongoing modeling and coaching of developmental activities and strategies within functional contexts.
- f) Monitoring and reporting on child progress.

3. Transition Support:

When a child moves from one setting to another, such as from home into a childcare program or into school, it is a stressful time of change for both the child and the family. NS Early Childhood Development Intervention Services assist in the transition process through systematic planning and the preparation of the child, the family and the receiving setting.

2. Family Support & Capacity Building

NS Early Childhood Development Intervention Services build family capacity by providing participatory experiences and opportunities that strengthen parenting knowledge & skills, and promote a positive sense of parenting competence and confidence. At the heart of this family-centered process is the recognition that families can identify their own concerns, resources and priorities. Developmental Interventionists work to support the family in their natural caregiving and decision-making roles, ensuring they have the information and resources they need to be successful advocates and strong supports for their child and family.

4. Case Coordination & Partnerships

Early Childhood Development Intervention Services is part of a range of community-based services and supports designed to strengthen families, improve parenting skills and foster healthy child development.

The following case coordination and partnership services are provided:

- a) Facilitating service coordination
- b) Facilitating regular review and revision of service plans with families and team members
- c) Providing consultation in community settings (e.g. childcare programs).

Nova Scotia Early Childhood Development Intervention Services

Tri-County Region Tracy DesChamp 902-875-4067	Digby location 902-837-7315 Shelburne location 902-875-4067 Yarmouth location - Southwest 902-742-3366
South Shore Region Denise Lowe Whynot 902-354-5890	Liverpool location - Queens 902-345-5890 Mahone Bay location – First Steps 902-531-3500
Annapolis Valley Region Barbara Crouse 902-678-6111	Kentville location –VCDA 902-678-6111 Lawrencetown location – Bright Beginnings 902-584-2000
Central Office Patricia Monaghan 902-423-8010	Halifax Region Wanda Jackson 902-423-2686
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial Region Ghislaine d’Eon 902- 648-2522	Lower Sackville location – Sackville Bedford 902 864-5251 Halifax location - Progress Centre 902-423-2686 Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Valley location 902-885-2668
Chignecto-Central Region Erin Jolly 902-667-8244	CPRPS – Tusket location 902-648-2522 CPRPS – Pointe de l’Eglise 902-769-5853
Strait Region Olivia Melnick 902-625-0396	Truro location - IHSE 902-893-3342 Amherst location – Cumberland 902-667-8244 New Glasgow location - Pictou County 902-752-4839
Cape Breton Victoria Region Valerie Donovan 902-849-3429	Antigonish location 902-863-2298 Guysborough location 902-533-2694 Port Hawkesbury location – Inverness Richmond 902-625-0396
Cape Breton Victoria Region Valerie Donovan 902-849-3429	Sydney location - Allkids 902- 567-0991 Glace Bay location - Allkids 902-849-3429 Baddeck location – Allkids 902-295-2504 Eskasoni Location – Allkids 902 -379-2259

NS Early Childhood Development Intervention Services has an open referral system, where referrals can be made directly by the family or on behalf of the family with their consent. Eligibility for services is determined through an initial screening process and home visit. The eligibility criteria for services, includes a developmental delay in two or more areas of development or a risk for developmental delay based on documented biological risk factors.