

# Early Childhood Project

Systems Development Initiative:  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Erikson Institute

## OVERVIEW

Collaborative effort between DCFS and Erikson Institute, implemented to serve and meet the needs of young children who are in DCFS care or being closely monitored by the child welfare system. The components of this program are: Early Childhood Placement Family Services Program and Early Childhood Intact Family Services Program. These programs provide developmental screenings and offers consultations and referrals (to Early Intervention and other services) to for early childhood related issues for children up to age 5. Trauma, attachment, and social-emotional issues are major components of the screening process.

For children who are wards of the state, program staff participates in each child's Clinical Intervention for Placement Preservation (CIPP) process to offer consultation on early childhood issues.

## WHO IS SERVED?

### *Population(s)/Age Group:*

Children 0-3 with an open Intact Family Services Case  
Children 0-3 whose parents are teenaged wards receiving DCFS/Teen Parent Services  
Children 0-5 who are wards of the state (Placement Family Services cases)

### *Eligibility Criteria and Screening Tools:*

Children in DCFS protective custody, with an open Intact Family Service case, in the Teen Parent Services Network (TPSN) or otherwise being closely monitored by DCFS.

## HOW ARE SERVICES DELIVERED?

### *Local Service System:*

- The Erikson Institute is the statewide program administrator and directs early childhood specialists statewide.
- For Intact Family Service Cases, the program offers initial screenings for all newly opened cases
- For children who are wards of the state, Integrated Assessment offers initial screening within first 45 days after custody
- For TPSN clients, the program designates two screening days per month in each region

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## *Referrals into Program:*

Referred by caseworker for developmental screening. Based on the screening caseworker will follow procedure to refer for Early Intervention (Part C) or Part B services.

## *Data Systems Used:*

Information not available

## **STATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OR CONTACT**

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