Early Intervention Services: IFSP Process and Timeline

45 Days | 30 Days

Concern about a child's development	Child referred to Maryland Infants & Toddlers Program (MITP)	Family contacted by local Infants and Toddlers Program	Child Evaluated and Eligibility Determined	Child and Family Assessed	IFSP Developed (if child is eligible)	IFSP Implemented
The IFSP process begins when your child is referred to your local Infants and Toddlers Program due to a concern about his/her development. To learn about the referral process, visit **Child Find and How to Refer – Age 0-3**	Referrals can come from anyone, **including parents**! Referral can be done: • Online • By phone: 1-800-535-0182 • By contacting your local Infants and Toddlers Program Directory for local Infants and Toddlers Programs: Single Point of Entry	You will receive a call from your local Infants & Toddlers Program. They will ask you some questions – share as much or as little information as you want – and schedule a time to evaluate your child.	An evaluation is done to gather information on how your child plays, learns, uses and understands language, expresses emotions, interacts with others, helps with feeding and dressing, and moves his/her body. Your child is eligible if they: • Have at least a 25% delay, **and/or** • Have atypical development or behavior, **and/or** • Have a high probability condition.	The first IFSP meeting will include you, your service coordinator, and maybe some staff who helped do the evaluations. You can invite others who might share information about your child (friends, childcare providers, etc.) Assessment helps the team understand your child's strengths and needs in daily activities that are important to your family.	An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a document that has information about your child's development, your family's priorities, your child's strengths and needs, and the outcomes you and the IFSP team would like your child to achieve. It is the plan of action – the who, what, when, where, why, and how – for services and supports to be provided to your child and family.	Services begin within 30 days of parental consent. The IFSP process is ongoing; it is reviewed every 6 months to check on your child and family's progress. You may also request a review anytime you want.

Source: A Family Guide to Understanding the IFSP