

Eligibility for Early Supports & Services

Who is eligible to receive Early Supports & Services provided by Community Partners?

Any child birth to age three living in Strafford County who falls into one of these categories. You do not have to determine eligibility to make a referral. This is done through a multidisciplinary evaluation after referral. Please use the information as a guide.

1. **Developmental Delay:** A child may be determined to be eligible because he or she has a 33% delay in one or more of the following developmental areas:

- Thinking and learning skills (cognitive development)
- Moving, seeing, and hearing (physical development)
- Understanding and using sounds, gestures, and words (communication development)
- Responding to and developing relationships with other people (social-emotional development)
- Taking care of one's self when doing things like feeding or dressing (adaptive development)

2. **Atypical Behavior:** As documented by the family and qualified personnel including:

- Extreme fearfulness or other modes of distress that do not respond to comforting by caregivers
- Self-injurious or extremely aggressive behaviors
- Extreme apathy
- Unusual and persistent patterns of inconsolable crying
- Chronic sleep disturbances
- Regressions in functioning
- Absence of pleasurable interest in adults and peers
- Inability to communicate emotional needs
- Persistent failure to initiate or respond to most social situations

3. **Established Condition:** A child may be determined eligible because he or she has been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a significant developmental delay or disability as the child gets older, even though the child may not currently have an observable delay or disability. If your child has a condition that establishes their eligibility, your child will still need an evaluation to help plan for what services may be needed.

4. At Risk for Substantial Developmental Delay: A child may be determined eligible because he or she is deemed 'At Risk' for substantial developmental delay by experiencing a total of five (5) or more of the following child or family risk factors:

Affecting the child:

- Birth weight less than 1,500 grams
- Respiratory distress syndrome
- Gestational age less than 27 weeks or more than 44 weeks
- Asphyxia
- Infection
- History of abuse or neglect
- Prenatal drug exposure due to mother's substance abuse or withdrawal
- Nutritional problems that interfere with growth and development
- Intracranial hemorrhage grade III or IV
- Homelessness

And/or, documented conditions, events or circumstances affecting a parent:

- Developmental disability
- Psychiatric disorder
- Family history of lack of stable housing
- Education less than 10th grade
- Social Isolation
- Documented substance addiction
- Age of either parent less than 18 years
- Parent/child interaction disturbances
- Founded child abuse or neglect as determined by a district court