

## **About Us**

The HSE Early Intervention Team and the School-Age Team support children and their families who have, or are at risk of having, a disability or developmental delay that requires the support of a multi-disciplinary team. Teams consist of a number of different disciplines, including Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists and Social Workers, who work co-operatively to support the needs of children and their families. Infants, children and young people are supported by the Early Intervention Team or School - Age Team when they present with complex needs that cannot be met within the framework of a primary care service. The teams deliver intervention in partnership with the child, their family, pre-school/school and other services in order to support the child's needs holistically. The Early Intervention Team sees children aged 0-4.11 years. The School-Age Team sees children aged 5-12 years who attend mainstream school.

## **Where are we?**

The HSE Early Intervention Team and School-Age Team are based at 44 North Great George's Street, Dublin 1. The geographical areas covered by the teams include: Ballymun, Larkhill, Santry, Whitehall, Clontarf, Killester, Marino, Drumcondra, parts of Glasnevin and the North Inner City.

## **Referral- Early Intervention Team**

Referrals to the Early Intervention Team can be made by your G.P., public health nurse, Primary Care team or by another service, with signed parental consent. The referral form can be found [here](#)

## **Referral- School Age Team**

If you are concerned that your child may be presenting with a developmental delay or a disability, you can refer your child directly to the School-Age Team by completing the referral form. Referrals can also be made by your G.P., public health nurse, Primary Care team or by the child's school, with signed parental consent. The referral form can be found [here](#).

## **Screening Assessment**

When a referral is received, it goes through a screening assessment process. The purpose of the screening is to ensure the child meets the access criteria for the Early Intervention Team/School-Age Team and to ensure that the Early Intervention Team/School-Age Team is the most appropriate service to support the child's needs. The screening assessment may be carried out by reviewing the referral form or it may involve some direct assessment of the child by the team. After the screening assessment, the teams will either accept the child's referral or inform the parents of the most appropriate service to meet their child's needs.

**Assessment**

Assessments will then be carried out (if required) to establish the child's strengths and difficulties and to establish the child's and family's intervention needs.

**Intervention**

Early Intervention for young children generally focuses on supporting and empowering the child's caregivers to help their child achieve their goals.

As children get older, they may be offered individual or group interventions in the clinic. Parent training may also be provided where appropriate and the teams will provide support to children and families during key stages, such as progressing from preschool to primary school.