



2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Coordination of Early Intervention Services

Early intervention services are designed to enable children birth to age three with developmental delays or disabilities to be active and successful during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of natural settings. Services may include but are not limited to:

- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical therapy
- Specialized Instruction
- Family Resources Coordination
- Social Services

32% of children make progress on developmental milestones and do not qualify for preschool special education by the age of three.

WEECARE Strongly Recommends:

- **Maximizing public funding by accessing federal matching funds to ensure equitable early intervention services are available to all eligible infants and toddlers wherever they live in Washington State.**
 - Other states have been able to access Federal Medicaid match funding for Early Intervention Services. Now that funding is in DCYF, our state should pursue federal Medicaid match for state funds appropriated for Early Intervention Services.
- **Supporting recruitment and retention of qualified professionals to provide quality early intervention services to infants and toddlers.**
 - Local providers struggle to recruit qualified professionals to provide high quality Early Intervention services to help infants and toddlers reach developmental milestones.
 - We support a funding structure that can offer competitive wages, benefits and a tuition reimbursement program or other incentives that will encourage qualified providers to enter the Early Intervention Service System.

WEECARE's Mission is to support advocacy for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their need for stable and equitable services in Washington State. The purpose of the group is to advocate for public policy that supports this population and their families statewide. For more information, contact Lance Morehouse (425)367-1687. Join our listserv at weecarecoalition@gmail.com. Visit us on Facebook.