



## NEBRASKA EARLY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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**The Importance of Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families**



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## Everything You Need To Know

- What is EDN?
- Why is it important?
- Who is it for?
- Where are the services provided and by whom?
- How does it work and who can I contact?

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## Nebraska Early Development Network (EDN)

- Serves infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 who have developmental delays or disabilities
- Recognizes and supports the **family** as part of service delivery and can also include: health, nutrition, education, family support, and social services
- **Free to the family:** no income guidelines for eligibility
- Voluntary program for families




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### All States Required to Provide Early Intervention

- Federal Law – Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) 2004
- Nebraska's regulations – Rule 52 and DHHS 480-NAC 3

**Created to minimize potential developmental delay and reduce educational costs to society**

**Not intended to be a stand-alone program**

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### Major Players in Nebraska

Co-Lead Administration between  
Nebraska Departments of Education & Health and Human Services




Families



Community



Schools



Parent Center



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### Why Intervene Early?

Key elements needed in the very early years are deceptively simple and are much less costly than later:

- ❖ Stable and responsive relationships
- ❖ Safe and supportive environments
- ❖ Adequate nutrition

Neural circuits are developed during these early experiences:

<http://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/brain-architecture/>




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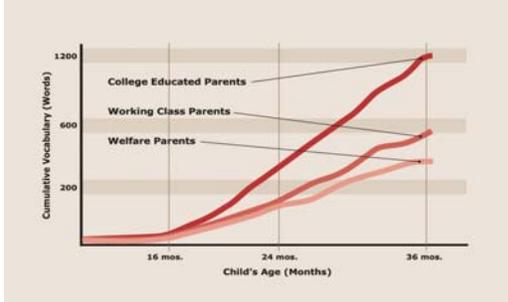
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### 18 Months: Age At Which Disparities in Vocabulary Begin to Appear (Hart & Risley 1995)



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### Relationships Should Act As A Buffer

But multiple adverse factors may be too much to overcome and can have a cumulative effect:

- Poverty
- Caregiver mental illness/depression
- Single parent
- Child maltreatment
- Low maternal education

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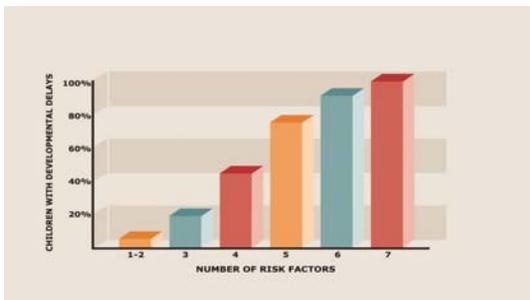
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### 90 - 100% Chance of Developmental Delays When Children Experience 6 - 7 Risk Factors



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### High Quality Early Intervention Services Can Change the Trajectory:

- ✓Adult responsiveness shapes how verbal the child will be, how emotionally secure he feels, and what his later adult relationships will be like.
- ✓Children need access to quality learning experiences in their home and community
- ✓Families need access to services and supports that are responsive to their individual needs – takes a community not just one agency.




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### Who can benefit from EDN?

Infant or toddler with the following conditions:

- Developmental delay
- Chromosomal abnormalities
- Genetic or congenital disorders
- Sensory impairment
- Disorders reflecting disturbance of the development of the nervous system
- Congenital infections
- Severe attachment disorders
- Disorders secondary to exposure to toxic substances including FAS




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### Who can benefit from EDN?

#### Families and their child

<http://edn.ne.gov/cms/parent-rights-video>




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## EDN Services Coordination

- Entitlement for all families
- Begins with referral to EDN and MDT and/or IFSP must be completed within 45 days
- Services Coordinator works with family, school district, medical/health providers and all agency providers to coordinate and develop plan and services
- Services Coordinator works with family and agencies to provide a seamless transition at August 31<sup>st</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday




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## How are EDN services provided?

- <http://edn.ne.gov/cms/parent-rights-video>
- MDT = Evaluation of all areas of child's development by school district trained professionals
- No cost to family
- If the child is eligible, child and family assessment used to develop IFSP
- Services must begin within 30 days

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## Who can make a referral?

- Anyone may make the referral to EDN by calling statewide toll free 888-806-6287 or the local EDN contact (see state directory)
- Services Coordinator will make contact with the family within 7 days to set up a home visit
- The school district is immediately notified that an infant or toddler has been referred.




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**Early Intervention Services**

- Speech/Language services
- Physical and Occupational services
- Vision and Audiology services
- Nutrition
- Nursing
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Social Emotional supports/services
- Transportation to receive services
- Assistive Technology services
- Services Coordination

**\*Continuous (year round) services**  
**\*Provided in Home and Community settings**




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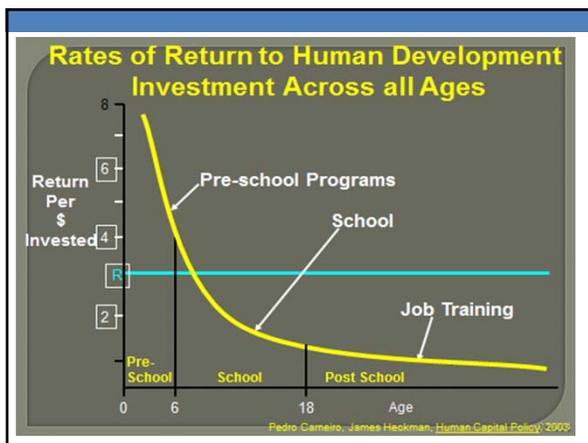
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**Summary**

- Identify infants and toddlers as early as possible to ensure that intervention is provided when the developing brain is most capable of change.
- High Quality early intervention programs for infants and toddlers can reduce the incidence of future problems in their learning, behavior and health status.
- Intervention is likely to be more effective and less costly when provided earlier in life.




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**Resources**

EDN App 

A Family's Guide to Early Intervention 

EDN Family Rights DVD  
<http://edn.ne.gov/parentrights.html>

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**THANK YOU!**



**Nebraska EDN Program Coordinators:**

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**EDN website:** <http://edn.ne.gov>

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