

PURCHASE OF SERVICE STANDARDS RELATING TO EARLY START

Center-based Infant Development Programs Services for Early Start

Center-based Infant Development Programs are designed specifically for toddlers, age 18 months-3 years, who would benefit from a specialized therapeutic environment beyond what is available from an in-home infant development program. This is intended for children whose significant global developmental delays or severe medical or behavioral challenges would not allow them to benefit from a community program without significant support. Their purpose is similar to that of the individualized services but they also allow for the child to socialize with peers in a therapeutic structured environment.

Westside Regional Center may purchase center-based services under the following circumstances:

- 1) Based on formal assessments and clinical review, the IFSP team has determined that the child has significant global developmental delays or special needs which may be appropriately met by the center-based program.
- 2) The child is not able to participate in a typical community program due to the above mentioned delays.

In general, part-time attendance two-three days per week with parent/caregiver participation is developmentally appropriate for the needs of most children. Two-day programs may be more appropriate for children who require a higher level of support. The specific number of days per week recommended for the child is determined by the severity of the child's delay, the need to prevent regression, and the presence of medical and/or physical concerns. If the child is medically fragile, a medical release from the child's physician may be required prior to attending the center-based program. Children attending center-based programs may also receive appropriate levels of individualized therapies including speech and language, occupational, or physical therapy.