

Early Supports and Services: How to get started at RMCC

- A **concern** regarding a child's development is identified.
- A **referral** is made to **One Sky Community Services** by a parent, physician or other community member. (Call 603-436-6111).
- A representative from One Sky will call the family, take demographic information over the phone, and help them learn more about the options in Region 8 for Early Supports and Services.
- The family makes a choice about where they will receive services (**Richie McFarland Children's Center** or Child and Family Services).
- When RMCC receives the referral from One Sky, a call is made to the family and two visits are scheduled—the first is the intake and the second is the developmental evaluation.
 - **Intake:** This appointment is held with Sue Ford, M.Ed. for the purposes of learning more about the family's concerns for their child, gathering developmental and medical history, determining the best team for the evaluation process and securing all necessary signatures to proceed to the evaluation. This initial intake is usually held at the Center in Stratham or we can meet at the family's home or other community setting.
 - **Evaluation:** This appointment is held with a **multidisciplinary team** of at least two developmental specialists, i.e., early childhood special educator, occupational therapist, physical therapist and/or speech and language pathologist. The assessment is a process whereby the team, including the parents identify the strengths and areas of need across all developmental domains in order to determine eligibility. These evaluations are held at the center or at a family's home.

When a child is found eligible.

- Parents with the evaluation team develop an **IFSP (Individual Family Support Plan)** outlining specific goals of intervention, frequency of services and start date.
- A **Service Coordinator** is assigned to partner with the family in implementing the services as directed by the IFSP.
- Services are formally reviewed in six months, however, the program plan and/or goals are revised as needed.
- A child is typically re-evaluated annually and goals are updated every six months.
- A transition process begins no later than the age of two in order to begin to explore options for the child once he/she turns three years of age.
- Rules require that a child graduates the day before his/her 3rd birthday, or earlier if their goals are achieved.
- If a child is eligible for Special Education, appropriate services begin at age three.

If a child is found not eligible.

- Developmental activities may be recommended.
- A child may be referred to other appropriate community services.
- A re-check may be scheduled, if indicated.
- Parents can appeal the decision of the Eligibility Evaluation team and re-refer at any time.