## Dutchess County Early Intervention Program (EIP) and Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Programs for Children with Disabilities

### How do I refer my child?
- **Early Intervention (EIP):** Call (845) 486-3518
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE):**
  - Send a letter to the CPSE in your District; or
  - Ask your child’s EI Service Coordinator for help with making a referral; or
  - Contact your local Early Childhood Direction Center for help with making a referral.

### What agency is responsible for the program in Dutchess County?
- **Early Intervention (EIP):** Dutchess County Department of Health – Early Intervention Division
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE):** NYS Department of Education (NYS DOE)

### Is there an age requirement for the program?
- **Early Intervention (EIP):** Yes. Children are eligible from birth to 3-years-old. However, children can start as early as 2-years 9-months-old if they are found eligible.
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE):** Yes. Children are eligible from 3-years to 5-years-old.

### What is the goal of the program?
- **Early Intervention (EIP):** Helping parents improve their children’s development using the family’s everyday routines, activities and relationships.
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE):** Providing educational and related services to support your child’s education.

### Will I have a Service Coordinator?
- **Early Intervention (EIP):**
  - Initial assistance: The EIP assigns you an Initial Service Coordinator when your child is referred. They help you with all the steps necessary to get services. This includes the evaluation to find out if your child is eligible for the Program and developing a family service plan (IFSP) if your child is eligible for the Program.
  - Ongoing assistance: You choose an Ongoing Service Agency at your IFSP meeting. Their job is to make sure that your child gets the services in the IFSP, help you find any resources that you need outside of the EIP, and help you as you leave (transition out of) the EIP.
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE):**
  - Initial Assistance: The CPSE office will send you a packet explaining CPSE, and the steps you need to take. You will then choose an evaluation site from those listed in the packet. This site will schedule a meeting to explain your due process rights and obtain a signed consent to do the evaluations.
  - Ongoing assistance: The CPSE may assign one of your child’s service providers to coordinate all of your child’s services.

### Who determines eligibility?
- **Early Intervention (EIP):**
  - You will select an evaluation agency at your first meeting with your Initial Service Coordinator. The evaluation agency will contact you to set up an appointment.
  - A team of at least two evaluators from different disciplines will evaluate your child.
  - You will be an important part of your child’s evaluation. You will be asked about your family’s concerns, priorities and resources related to your child’s development.
- **Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE):**
  - You will choose an evaluation site from a list of approved evaluation sites listed in the packet you will receive. You will then call the evaluation site to make an appointment.
  - A team of evaluators from different disciplines will evaluate your child.
  - You will continue to be an important part of your child’s evaluation process.
Your child’s evaluation will include:
- Evaluations of all areas of your child’s development as defined by NYS regulations.
  - **Cognitive**: Thinking, problem solving, attention and learning style.
  - **Speech/language**: Understanding and talking
  - **Adaptive**: Self-help skills like eating, dressing, and sleeping.
  - **Social/emotional**: Interacting with parents and children, and coping skills.
  - **Physical**: Gross Motor: Sitting and walking.
    Fine Motor: grasping, coloring and cutting and sensory processing.
  - Review of medical information (your pediatrician can complete a medical form).
- Assessment of transportation needs.
- With your family’s permission, an assessment of your family’s goals and resources.

**How will services be authorized?**

- Services are determined at the IFSP meeting.
- A written plan is developed by the IFSP team, which includes the parent, Early Intervention Official Designee (EIOD), ongoing service coordinator, evaluation representative, and other participants invited by the parent.
- Parent(s) must consent for services to start.

**Will I have to go to service planning meetings?**

- Parent(s) must be present at all IFSP meetings.

**Where are services provided?**

- Services are delivered in natural environments such as your home, or in places like daycare where there are other children without disabilities.

**When are services available?**

- Services must be available year-round.

**How are timeframes calculated?**

In the EIP, “days” means calendar days. Weekends and holidays (except legal holidays) are counted as part of the time requirements.

- Programs and services are determined at the IEP meeting.
- A written plan is developed by the parent, CPSE Administrator, and anyone else that the parent invites to come to the meeting.
- Parent(s) must consent for services to start.

- Parent(s) will be invited, and are encouraged to come to all IEP meetings. However, parents do not have to be present at the IEP meeting.

- CPSE must consider services in the Least Restrictive Environment. This would be where children your child’s age without disabilities are usually found, before the child is considered for a setting with only preschoolers with disabilities.

- Services must be available:
  - 180 days during the ten-month school year; and
  - At least 30-days during July and August (if the CPSE recommends that your child receive services year-round).

In CPSE, both school days and calendar days are used. “School days” means that weekends and school holidays are not counted towards time requirements.