

Early Childhood Rehabilitation Services

Early Childhood Rehabilitation (ECR) provides goal-focused, time limited intervention and parent education for medically stable children, from birth to kindergarten eligibility. The child must present with neuro-developmental concerns or developmental delays/disabilities that are impacting daily life; or an acute change in function and/or a significant regression of skills.

Based on clinical need, a child may access support from Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech Language Pathology, a Child Development Specialist, Registered Dietitian, Social Work and/or Therapy Assistant.

Intervention is individualized to support the child and family and may include: screening, informal/formal assessment, parent/caregiver education sessions, direct teaching/coaching, individual and/or group sessions, equipment support, support with accessing community-based resources.

ECR requires parents/caregiver readiness to actively participate in intervention sessions. With support, parents/caregivers will identify a functional goal on which they would like to focus rehabilitation intervention and will be coached on how to carry-out developmental recommendations in the home and community. Attending an ECR parent/caregiver orientation session is the first step of our programming (*exceptions may apply e.g. English Language Learners, complex child/family needs).

ECR may complete assessment(s) to inform intervention and treatment planning but does not accept referrals requesting assessment only.

ECR does not provide home-based intervention. All services are provided at AHS facilities.

Referrals are accepted from:

Pediatricians
Family Physicians
Allied Healthcare Professionals/Nurses/Registered Dietitians

Inclusion Criteria:

- Children birth to Kindergarten eligibility age (5-5 ½ yrs)
- Child is medically stable and able to participate in rehabilitation intervention
- Child resides in Alberta Health Services (AHS), Calgary Zone
- Child has rehabilitation intervention needs due to an acute change in function and/or a significant regression of skills
- Child has diagnosed or undiagnosed delays due to neuro/developmental origin(s).
- Child has a developmental delay or disability that is impacting their daily life

Exclusion Criteria:

- Child is accessing services that are meeting their functional needs in the home and/or community (e.g. Home Care, Early Intervention programs, Alberta Education funded programs, private therapy, FSCD funded programs and/or other community-based rehabilitation supports). We may negotiate complementary services so as to avoid duplicating services.
- Child currently attending Kindergarten or entering Kindergarten within 2-3 months.
- Referrals for assessment only
- Referrals for group therapy only (group involvement maybe recommended by an ECR clinician as part of individualized intervention and treatment.)
- Child requires support from a Speech Language Pathologist only.
- Child requires support from a Registered Dietitian only.
- Child requires the support of a psychologist or behavioral specialist only and does not present with any additional developmental concerns.
- Child requires support for feeding only and does not present with any additional developmental concerns.
- Child requires monitoring or 'just in case' service.
- Child has musculoskeletal or alignment concerns (eg. torticollis, clubfeet, amputees, in-toeing, frequent tripping) and no additional developmental concerns
- Child has a Brachial plexus injury.
- Child is receiving palliative support and is not able to actively participate in rehabilitation services.

Please complete: Early Childhood Rehabilitation Services Referral Form