

BCCFA Early Intervention Therapy Program (EIT)

Eligibility and Intake Information for Community Service Providers

Mandate and Context

Our Early Intervention Therapies Program provides occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech- language therapy services for preschool children from birth to Kindergarten-entry age with physical, neurological and/or developmental disabilities who live in Vancouver, Richmond, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, and Burnaby.

Determining BCCFA EIT Eligibility and Planning for Initial Services

The EIT admission criteria are very closely linked with a determination of a child's need for therapy services. If he/she is within the age and region mandate above, and the family and/or medical/community service provider feels they may benefit from the EIT services, the Intake Coordinator will accept the referral and proceed with the intake process.

The intake process will collect the following information through telephone dialogue with the family and others involved with the child:

- child's diagnosis/etiology, if available
- clinical profile of the child (i.e. what developmental domains are affected by the child's developmental difficulties)
- what other services and supports the family is accessing for their child
- functional and routines-based needs of the child
- support needs of the family

Additionally, the family will be asked to sign consent to treatment before services from the BCCFA begins.

When the Intake Coordinator has enough information to confirm eligibility she will discuss the eligibility decision with the family:

1. Recommend acceptance and advise whether there is a waitlist at this time
 - Intake Coordinator will recommend an initial service plan which outlines: any fast-tracked services, family's priority area for consultation, referral to groups or workshops, and referral for social work consultation
2. Recommend acceptance, but no additional services/supports required at this time
 - A typical example is that the child's needs are being well-served at this time by IDP, or another service but knowledge of the child's diagnosis/etiology/clinical profile determines that the child will require our EIT services in the near future
3. Recommend non-acceptance, and referral to other services
 - Some examples: children who have speech and behavioral needs only, and are already accessing Health Unit SLP services; typical children with feeding difficulties, children who have sensory processing needs without developmental delay

Agreements with the Health Unit SLPs:

Decision-making aids have been developed in partnership with Health Unit SLPs in Vancouver, Burnaby, and Richmond. These provide guidance for determining which children are more appropriately referred to which agency, as Health Unit SLPs and BCCFA EIT SLPs have over-lapping mandates.

Who you can call to get information about children who have been referred or are going to be referred:

- If you are unsure of who to talk to, call BCCFA at 604-451-5511 and ask to speak to a therapy services secretary – they will check the database, and/or will connect you with the most appropriate person
- If you know the child is recently referred and the intake process has not been completed, you can call the Intake Coordinator (currently Marlayne Metzker) at 604-630-3016.
- If you are sure the child has completed the intake process and are seeking information on their service status, you can contact the Regional Coordinator
- If you would like to discuss whether a child may be an appropriate referral for our program, you can call a discipline-specific Director:

Susan Bonney, Director of Occupational Therapy & North Shore Regional Coordinator	604-630-3001
Judit Spence, Director of Physiotherapy & Richmond/Burnaby Regional Coordinator	604-630-3018
Kate Wishart, Director of Speech-Language Pathology & Vancouver Regional Coordinator	604-630-3002