



**Great Prairie Area Education Agency**

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GPAEA.org



**For more information visit IFSN website:**

<https://www.iafamilysupportnetwork.org/families/early-access>

**For help finding resources visit IFSN resource directory:**

<https://directory.iafamilysupportnetwork.org/directory>

**Early ACCESS** is Iowa's system for providing family-centered early intervention services. It is available to families with infants and toddlers from birth to age 3 who have a health or physical condition. This condition may affect their growth, including delays in his/her ability to play, think, talk, or move.



If your child is under age 3 and the team agrees that Early ACCESS services would help, these services are provided at no cost to your family. Your child may be eligible if he/she has a diagnosed condition that is likely to result in a developmental delay. Your child may also receive services if he/she shows signs of a delay in any of these areas:

### Cognitive

*(showing awareness, solving problems)*

### Communication

*(making sounds, talking, listening, or responding)*

### Physical

*(reaching, moving, walking, seeing, or hearing)*

### Social-Emotional

*(interacting or playing with others)*

### Adaptive

*(feeding, dressing, bathing, or toileting)*

As part of the evaluation process, the Early ACCESS team will ask questions about your child, review your child's health history, and spend time watching your child in his/her daily routine (home, daycare, other).

If your child is eligible for Early ACCESS, your Early ACCESS team will complete assessments to learn more about your child and your family.

Every family in Early ACCESS will work with a service coordinator, who is your main contact. Your Service Coordinator partners with you and the Early ACCESS team to identify services, resources, and supports your child needs.

Your Early ACCESS service providers will coordinate evaluations and meetings to create the Individualized Family Service Plan specific for your child. They also identify routines, plan activities, and set goals to support your child's development. Your team may include:

- Developmental Specialists
- Early Childhood Special Education Teachers
- Occupational/Physical Therapist
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Registered Dietitian Nutritionist
- Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Visually Impaired
- Audiologists

Services are provided face-to-face or virtually in the home or community. Service providers do their best to schedule visits that fit your family's needs.

You play a critical role in your child's development. As part of the team, you will:

- Be involved in the visits so that you can learn how to support your child's development.
- Practice new skills with your child during daily routines and activities.

Please contact your service coordinator if you need to cancel or reschedule a visit for any reason including family illness.