

What is KEIS?

KEIS – the Kentucky Early Intervention System – is a statewide early intervention system that provides services to children with developmental disabilities from birth to age three and their families. KEIS is Kentucky's response to the [federal Infant-Toddler Program](#). KEIS offers comprehensive services through a variety of community agencies and service disciplines and is administered by the Department for Public Health (DPH) in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS).

Who does Kentucky Early Intervention System serve?

KEIS serves children from birth to age three and their families. Child eligibility for the program is determined in three ways:

1. **Developmental delay** - A child may be eligible for services if an evaluation shows the child is not developing typically in at least one of the measured skill areas: communication, cognition, physical, social and emotional, or self-help.
2. **Established risk concern** - A child may be eligible if diagnosed with a physical or mental condition likely to result in developmental delay such as Down Syndrome.
3. **Informed clinical opinion** - A child may be eligible for services if an approved multidisciplinary evaluation team of professionals determines the child needs services based on the team's clinical expertise.

While receiving services from KEIS, it's important to keep contact information for your Service Coordinator, Provider and Point of Entry at your fingertips. For a full list of POE offices by county, visit the [KEIS webpage](#).

Tracking developmental milestones

Skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye bye" are called developmental milestones. Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, act, and move. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) has a way for you to help track your child's milestones via the [Milestone Tracker App](#), or through their comprehensive list of milestones by age. The CDC also provides [free resources, books, brochures, videos](#), social media links, and other detailed information for parents and families to help track a child's developmental stages at every age from birth through high school.

Wise Words

"Work to restore balance. Most kids have technology, school and extracurricular activities covered. It's time to add a pinch of adventure, a sprinkle of sunshine and a big handful of *outdoor play*." – Penny Whitehouse

"It's not just kids who grow. Parents do too. As much as we watch to see what our children do with their lives, they are watching us to see what we do with ours." – Joyce Maynard

"When my kids become wild and unruly, I use a nice, safe playpen. When they're finished, I climb out." – Erma Bombeck

2024 dates to know:

July

National Fragile X Awareness month
4th - Independence Day
9th - National Sugar Cookie Day
14th - National Mac and Cheese Day
23rd - National Vanilla Ice Cream Day
26th - National Disabilities ADA Day

August

National Wellness Month
National Children's Eye Health Month
2nd - National Coloring Book Day
9th - National Book Lover's Day
11th - National Play in the Sand Day
24th - National Waffle Day
30th - National Grief Awareness Day

Caregiver Coaching

The Key Principles for Providing Early Intervention Services highlight that *“the primary role of a service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children’s lives.”* The Kentucky Early Intervention System uses a model of caregiver coaching, because children trust and learn best from the adults who love, nurture, and take care of them. During sessions, early intervention providers support caregivers to choose meaningful priorities, observe caregiver-child interactions then reflect and problem-solve, guide caregivers to practice strategies and activities, and discuss with caregivers to plan how they will continue to work with their children between visits. The goal is for caregivers to feel comfortable and confident to continue working with their little one, so that children get many opportunities to practice within their routines, which helps them to learn and develop.

To learn more about the [Mission and Key Principles for Providing EI Services in Natural Environments](#) or about Caregiver Coaching, visit the [Coaching in Early Intervention Training and Mentorship Program website](#).

Information provided by the Coaching in Early Intervention Training and Mentorship Program (CEITMP)

What is HANDS?

HANDS is the Health Access Nurturing Development Services. This program under the Division of Maternal Child Health supports mothers **throughout pregnancy and the first two years of a baby’s life**. HANDS supports families as they build healthy, safe environments for the optimal growth and development of children. For more information, visit the [HANDS website](#).

What is KY-SPIN?

The Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network, also known as KY-SPIN, is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Their **mission** is to link families and individuals with disabilities to valuable resources that will enable them to live productive, fulfilling lives. *However, they are not a legal services agency and cannot provide legal advice or legal representation.* They have a Board of Directors comprised of parents, consumers and professionals who provide guidance and assistance to the various programs.

KY-SPIN Parent Center is a statewide project of KY-SPIN, Inc. KY-SPIN Parent Center PTI (Parent Training & Information Project) is funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education. KY-SPIN Parent Center provides training, information and support for children and youth with all types of disabilities (birth through 26 years old), their parents, families, and professionals.

In partnership and agreement with the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), KY-SPIN assists families, schools, and communities in providing educational information and training opportunities consistent with the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

KY-SPIN has helpful links for parents and families:

- [Educational, professional, school related forms, and resources can be found on their website.](#)
- [A guide to managing emotions, remaining calm, and dealing with crisis.](#)
- [Understanding what daily living skills in early childhood look like.](#)
- [Helpful videos, infographics, and other tools for children and families.](#)
- [KY-SPIN resources in Spanish.](#)