



Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

2-K Accommodations and Supports

This tipsheet offers guidance on securing accommodations and supports for toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities in New York City Public Schools (NYCPS) 2-K programs.

Is support available for toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities in 2-K?

Yes! All [2-K programs](#) are expected to serve children with developmental delays or disabilities, including toddlers who may require specialized care. Your child may be eligible for services through the [Early Intervention](#) (EI) program described below. If your child needs support or accommodations to participate in 2-K beyond the services they receive through Early Intervention, you should contact your child's 2-K program as soon as you receive an offer to discuss your child's needs and make sure the program is ready to meet them. All programs are required to provide accommodations for children with disabilities and may not turn away children because of their needs.

How can 2-K staff support my child?

All 2-K programs are run by licensed and trained staff and are designed to provide high-quality early childhood education services. If your child has physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional needs that require health services or other supports beyond the services your child may receive through Early Intervention, the 2-K program should work with you and your child's doctor to complete an ["Individualized Health Care Plan"](#) (LDSS-7006). This plan should describe your child's needs, identify the staff responsible for supporting your child, outline the care and services the staff will provide, and note any training or support the staff will receive to meet your child's needs. The 2-K program should be able to address the needs of most children. For example, staff are expected to provide first aid, modify meals to accommodate allergies, administer medication or an EpiPen, and manage difficult behaviors. Learn more about the program day, meals, and health supports at [NYCPS Early Childhood Learning](#).

What if my child needs specialized medical support?

If your child requires specialized health and medical support, such as nursing services, beyond what the 2-K program can provide on its own, the 2-K program should give you a medical form to be completed by your child's doctor and a [consent form](#) allowing NYCPS to contact the doctor. You should return the forms to your child's 2-K program as soon as possible. The program will submit the forms to the NYCPS Office of School Health for approval of a nurse or other specialized health services.

Who do I contact if I run into challenges?

You should request supports and raise any concerns directly with your child's 2-K program. If the program does not provide your child with the supports and accommodations that they need, you should email DECEFamilyPartnerships@schools.nyc.gov or call 3-1-1 and ask for early childhood education. Feel free to copy AFC at preschool@afcnyc.org so that we can learn about the issue and monitor the NYCPS response.

Can my child receive Early Intervention services in 2-K?

Yes! Children under three with developmental delays or disabilities are eligible for free evaluations and developmental services through the Early Intervention (EI) program run by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

If your child has already been found eligible, we recommend that you share a copy of their Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) with your child's 2-K program. Children can receive EI services, including special instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, in their 2-K program. Your child's EI providers and 2-K staff should work together to meet your child's needs.

If you have questions about your child's IFSP services, if services are not in place, or to request that services be provided in the 2-K program, you should contact your EI Service Coordinator. If that does not resolve the issue, contact your [Regional Office](#) and the Office of Consumer Affairs at 347-396-6828 or EIConsumerAffairs@health.nyc.gov. Feel free to copy AFC at earlyintervention@afcnyc.org.

To learn more about Early Intervention, including how to [request an evaluation](#) and services, see AFC's [Guide to Early Intervention](#).

Can my child attend an Early Intervention center-based program and a 2-K program?

Yes! 2-K programs are open year-round for up to 10 hours a day, so children receiving EI services in a center-based program can participate in a 2-K program for the remainder of the day. Your child may also be eligible for busing services from their EI center to the 2-K program. You should discuss busing with your child's EI Service Coordinator.

What happens when my child ages out of Early Intervention?

EI services are available at least until your child turns three years old. If you believe that your child will continue to need services after they turn three, then you should work with your EI Service Coordinator to refer your child to the [Committee on Preschool Special Education](#) (CPSE) for [preschool special education](#) evaluations and services at least 3 months before their third birthday. If you run into any challenges moving from EI to preschool special education, you can email eitopreschool@schools.nyc.gov. Feel free to copy AFC at preschool@afcnyc.org.

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