

**Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility
Services
Infant Toddler Early Intervention**

**Children who are Subjects of Abuse and Children who are in Foster Care or Wards of the State
Policy**

Definition of Abuse

Pennsylvania law defines child abuse as any of the following when committed upon a child under 18 years of age by a perpetrator:

- A. Any recent act or failure to act which causes non-accidental serious physical injury.
- B. An act or failure to act which causes non-accidental serious mental injury or sexual abuse or exploitation.
- C. A recent act, failure to act or series of such acts or failures to act which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury or sexual abuse or exploitation.
- D. Serious physical neglect which endangers a child's life or development or impairs a child's functioning.

Policy

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention collaborates with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services to effectively address referrals and maintain ongoing contact with resource parents, families and DHS and Community Umbrella Agency staff.

Procedures

1. Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) coordinates and monitors the referrals of children, including from Community Umbrella Agencies, to Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention (ITEI).
2. Infant Toddler Early Intervention Intake completes the intake for children who are in an out-of-home placement with the information supplied in the referral. For children who remain with their family and have DHS involvement, EI Intake contacts the family to complete the Intake. Once the intake is completed the child and family or resource parent are assigned to a Service Coordination entity.
3. The assigned Service Coordinator (SC) will contact the family and arrange an Initial Home Visit (IHV). All related policies and procedures are followed (e.g., Screening in Early Intervention, Individual Family Service Plan [IFSP] Policy, Regular Developmental Screening for Children who are At-Risk for Developmental Concerns Policy, etc.).
4. Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention (ITEI) collaborates with Philadelphia DHS to ensure that children who are in an out-of-home placement are evaluated, and if eligible, have an IFSP. If ineligible, these children are enrolled in Regular Developmental Screening. A Good Faith Effort Policy and Procedure specific to these children has been developed and
5. Philadelphia ITEI will have an Interagency Agreement with Philadelphia DHS.
6. A parent surrogate will be assigned as needed (See Surrogate Parent Procedure).