**Montana Milestones/Part C/Early Intervention**

Montana Milestones is a program of early intervention services for children with delays and disabilities ages 0-36 months. Early intervention services and supports are provided in the child’s most natural environment to help families support and promote their child’s development within their family activities and community life.  Families with children who met the eligibility criteria established by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services are entitled to a range of services defined by federal law.

**Who is eligible?**

Children from birth to age three who meet the following criteria:

* Diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay
* 50% developmental delay in one area of development or a 25% delay in two or more areas of development, including: physical (motor, vision and hearing), cognitive (thinking ability), communication (Speech and language), social-emotional (interaction with others) or self-help skills.

**What services are offered?**

Montana Milestones/Part C/Early Intervention services are delivered as part of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed by a multidisciplinary team in cooperation with the family. Services available include: Evaluation and assessment, Family Support Coordination; Assistive Technology; Audiology; Family Education, Counseling and Home Visits; Nursing; Health Related; Medical; Nutrition; Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy; Psychological; Vision; Social Work; Special Instruction; and Transportation.

Supports and services are provided in the child’s most natural environment and visits occur at least monthly, but are made as often as necessary to achieve the identified child and family goals.

**How is a referral made?**

Any concerned person, parent, or agency may make a referral on behalf of a child who may appear to have a developmental delay. Referrals can be made if there are *any* questions or concerns about a child’s development. Permission from the parent or legal guardian is required to make a referral.

**Want more information?**

Montana Milestones/Part C website:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities/PartC-EarlyInt>

List of current Montana Milestone/Part C Providers by Region: <http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/dsd/documents/DDP/PartC/RegionalEarlyInterventionProviders2017.pdf>

**Family Education & Support**

Family Education & Support Services helps families of children with special needs by enhancing the knowledge and skills of children and their families to achieve optimal success in life. The families, in partnership with a Family Support Specialist (FSS), develop goals to work on in an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).  Services include:

1. Helping children reach their maximum potential within their most natural environment (usually in the home or out in their community,)
2. Assisting families in maximizing their skills and abilities to utilize resources and to help their child,
3. Assessing and evaluating child and family needs,
4. Providing information and referral to other services as needed, and
5. Coordinating services with schools and other team members working with the child.

**Who is eligible?**

* Children age three up to their eighth birthday who have two or more areas of development with a 25% or more delay, or one or more areas of development delayed by at least 50%, including: physical (motor, vision and hearing), cognitive (thinking ability), communication (speech and language), social-emotional (interaction with others) or self-help skills.
* Children and adults age eight up to their twenty-first birthday who have been determined to have an intellectual disability (IQ 70 or below) by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Developmental Disabilities Program.

**How is a referral made?**

It is expected that children in this program will also be eligible for school services, so children are usually receiving services through schools as well as Family Education & Support.  There is a waiting list for this program.  Anyone who is concerned about a child’s development can make a referral with parent/guardian approval.

**Want more information?**

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/developmentaldisabilities>

Directory of current Family Education and Support Providers by Region**:**

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/Portals/85/dsd/documents/DDP/PartC/RegionalEarlyInterventionProviders2017.pdf>