

PIERCE COUNTY EARLY SUPPORT FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS (ESIT) SERVICES DURING COVID-19



A STEP AHEAD

WHERE SPECIAL NEEDS FIND A HOME

A Step Ahead continues to accept referrals. Please don't wait, ESIT services are available now for children birth to age three, and this is a critical period of brain development.

What services look like:

All Pierce County ESIT agencies are providing virtual services through video conferencing and/or phone calls, with the same high quality staff as always.

- Services are provided through coaching, which is one way parents learn strategies to support their child's development.
- Research shows that virtual services are as successful as in-person services (example study [here](#)).

Services may include:

- Family Resources Coordination (for all families)
- Early Education
- Speech Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Feeding and Nutrition Support
- Infant Mental Health Therapy
- Vision, and more.

The benefits to families receiving ESIT services include:

- Supporting the child's development during early brain growth,
- Learning helpful ideas to use while playing or during daily activities.
- Stability during a time of uncertainty
- Making social connections and links to additional supports

To make a referral, contact us in any of the following ways (parents can also self-refer):

Pierce County Single-Point-of-Entry

- P. 253.798.3790
- F. 253.798.2818
- E. pcfrc@piercecountywa.gov

A Step Ahead office

- P. 253.471.2727
- F. 253.471.2730
- W. www.asapc.org

Additional for pediatricians, NICU staff, etc.:

- There are a number of diagnoses that automatically qualify a child for ESIT services. If you are working with a child with one of these diagnoses, please indicate the diagnosis on the referral. This will simplify and speed up the intake process.
- Services will be 100% virtual during this time, so you will not need to worry about exposing children to illness.

Pierce County and ESIT Providers are actively working to reduce barriers to access, such as access to interpreters for all visits, and providing internet and tablets when families need them.