



Early Intervention at Interdisciplinary Early Intervention Centres in Baden-Württemberg

Information for Parents and Other Interested Parties



For whom is early intervention intended?

Children with developmental delays, impending or existing disabilities and their parents are the focus of early intervention measures from the time they are born until the time they start school. Interdisciplinary early intervention aims to prevent or lessen the threat of disability and the effects of existing disabilities and to strengthen the children affected and their families. Part of the work involves eliminating obstructive conditions in their surroundings that could hinder inclusion.

Where can I/we get advice and support?

If you are worried about your child's development or if a disability is impending or already present, your paediatrician will usually be your first contact. You can also contact the interdisciplinary early intervention centre in your urban district or county directly.

Who makes the application for early intervention?

You as parents apply for early intervention and can also end it at any time. With your consent and cooperation, experts will create an intervention and treatment plan for your child in order to support and promote his or her individual development.

Who will help my child and advise me?

Experts in the fields of medicine (occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy), education and psychology (e.g. curative education, psychology, social education) work as a team at recognised interdisciplinary early intervention centres. The child is helped and treated in close cooperation with the parents and the family's paediatrician.

Where will my child undergo early intervention?

At an interdisciplinary early intervention centre, at your home or even at the kindergarten in individual cases.

What happens to our personal data?

As parents, you decide which data and information can be stored and/or passed on to others.

What are the principles of interdisciplinary early intervention?

The state framework agreement (Landesrahmenvereinbarung) implementing the Ordinance on Early Recognition and Early Intervention for Disabled Children and Children Threatened by Disability (Verordnung zur Früherkennung und Frühförderung behinderter und von Behinderung bedrohter Kinder) in Baden-Württemberg sets out the five principles described below:

- **Holistic approach**
When undergoing early intervention, the child is accepted as an independent personality by his social environment and his/her development is fostered.
- **Family orientation**
Early intervention is requested by the parents. They are involved in decisions about intervention and treatment measures and are always kept fully informed. Parents can also be supported, encouraged and assisted if they wish.
- **Interdisciplinary approach**
Experts in the fields of medicine, education and psychology work as a team and can respond in an interdisciplinary manner to the diverse needs of the child and his/her family.
- **Decentralisation**
Interdisciplinary early intervention centres have been or will be established in all urban districts and counties in Baden-Württemberg, making them accessible to all children in need and their parents.
- **Cooperation and coordination of all supportive measures**
Developmental measures are particularly successful when the supportive measures suitable for each child are coordinated and can thus be offered from one source.
Interdisciplinary early intervention centres therefore work with the facilities relevant to the child, e.g. special education advisory centres at schools, social paediatric centres, daycare facilities etc., so that they can jointly ensure that children with developmental anomalies receive the best possible support before they start school.

How much will early intervention cost me?

Interdisciplinary early intervention is free of charge for families. The services rendered by interdisciplinary early intervention centres are financed jointly by health insurance providers and local social welfare organisations. This financing is regulated by law (German Social Code (SGB) Book IX, Book V). If your child is to receive complex services, i.e. medical treatment combined with curative education, the interdisciplinary early intervention centre will forward the support and treatment plan to your health insurance provider and social welfare organisation for approval and financing. The interdisciplinary early intervention centres can also render individual services: medical treatment is prescribed by your paediatrician and paid for by your health insurance

provider. Your local social welfare organisation will cover the costs of curative education on receipt of an application.

What is the legal basis of early intervention?

The legal basis of early intervention is set forth in the Ninth Book of the German Social Code (SGB IX) and the Ordinance on Early Recognition and Early Intervention for Disabled Children and Children Threatened by Disability (FrühV). In Baden-Württemberg, this ordinance is implemented by the State Framework Agreement on the Implementation of FrühV.

Would you like to know more?

The addresses of interdisciplinary early intervention centres, special education advisory centres, paediatricians, children's clinics, social paediatric centres and social welfare authorities are listed by urban district and county in the "Wegweiser Frühförderung¹" (Early Intervention Guide, pdf) available on the Stuttgart Regional Council² website. You will also find more information on the website of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Integration by entering the search term "Frühförderung" (early intervention): www.sm.baden-wuerttemberg.de/

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¹ [https://rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/RP-Internet/Themenportal/Soziales/Landesarzt/ DocumentLibraries/Documents/wegweiser-ff-bw.pdf](https://rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/RP-Internet/Themenportal/Soziales/Landesarzt/DocumentLibraries/Documents/wegweiser-ff-bw.pdf)

² <https://rp.baden-wuerttemberg.de/rps/abt9/ref93/landesarzt/>