

Beyond Bubbles and Blocks

Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI)



Do you know about Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) in Massachusetts (MA) Part C Early Intervention (EI)?

Massachusetts (MA) Part C early intensive behavioral intervention (EIBI) services are the early intervention specialty services provided to children enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) who have been identified as requiring specialized services due to a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or Down Syndrome. These diagnoses are established condition's; the child is eligible to receive these services while enrolled in early intervention until their 3rd birthday.

In Massachusetts, Part C EIBI services are consistent with 101 CMR 358.00 and are required to be listed as consented to on a family's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Who provides MA Part C EIBI Services?

In the Massachusetts EI system, there are currently 20 Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) programs that contract with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide EIBI services to children enrolled in EI diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or Down Syndrome. Each EIBI program is contracted to provide these services to specific catchment area(s) in the state. The EIS program refers the enrolled child diagnosed with ASD and/or Down Syndrome to the EIBI programs in their catchment area to provide these EIBI Specialty Services as part of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for that child.

Massachusetts Part C EIBI services must be provided by one of the contracted EIBI programs in the family's catchment area. A list of contracted EIBI programs can be found on the [MA Part C Early Intervention website](#).

What do MA Part C EIBI Services look like?

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Early Intervention Division

EIBI services are designed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) to meet the individual needs of infants or toddlers and their families. These services are provided in the family's natural environment and focus on supporting developmental milestones, daily routines, communication and social/emotional skills. EIBI services are designed to occur within the child and family's everyday life. This may look like a BCBA supporting a parent cooing with their baby, a behavior technician encouraging a one-year-old to point to the toy they want to play with, or a family taking a walk together in their neighborhood with their BCBA to discuss different ways to support their child outside of sessions.

EIBI providers use data to evaluate progress and inform discussions with families and caregivers. Data are collected during each session to evaluate progress on milestones, adjust teaching strategies when necessary, and ensure services continue to adapt to the child and families changing needs. To an onlooker, EIBI services for infants and toddlers looks a lot like parents, caregivers, and EIBI staff, playing with, caring for, and supporting the changing needs of infants and toddlers in their everyday life.

How are MA Part C EIBI Services measured?

EIBI services are a part of the child and families Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and one (or more) of the child's Part C early intervention services. This means that EIBI services, like all services consented to on an IFSP, are required to meet IDEA Part C requirements. Families are entitled to receive all EIBI services consented to on their IFSP in the natural environment, in a timely manner. Families are also entitled to Part C IDEA procedural safeguards and family rights; including DPH as the Payor of Last Resort.

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The EI Division monitors the delivery of EIBI services provided by contracted Part C EIBI programs to ensure that all families receive high-quality Part C EIBI services in accordance with contractual, state, and federal requirements.

How do you explain EIBI services to families?

Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) is a type of evidence-based therapy frequently used with infants, toddlers, and children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Down syndrome. EIBI services are provided by specialized practitioners (i.e., Behavior Analysts and Behavior Technicians) who have advanced training and expertise in working with young children with ASD and Down Syndrome to help them meet their developmental milestones.

EIBI utilizes the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to help break larger, more complex skills into smaller, more approachable steps. This approach creates services that are designed to meet infants and toddlers where they are, support learning in their environment, and create more opportunities for success as they begin to develop and progress.

EIBI service providers, as members of the child's IFSP team, work collaboratively alongside the child's other early intervention service providers. Together, this collaboration supports providing comprehensive, high-quality services, that help families achieve their goals and outcomes in Early Intervention.

EIBI services, when provided through Early Intervention, take place in the child and family's natural environment; this is where their child and family would typically develop and practice these emerging skills. Providing EIBI services in the family's home and community ensures that services are family-focused and prioritize the activities and routines that are especially meaningful to that family's everyday life.

Families should expect to receive specialized, supportive, and collaborative services that continue to reflect their child and family's changing needs. Families should expect EIBI services that are embedded into their everyday life, designed to focus on meaningful skills and routines, and find that very often their child's sessions look and feel very much like play.



Reflecting on your practice

As you consider your work with families, take a moment to reflect on the following questions:

- How do you collaborate with EIBI programs on IFSP outcomes?
- What training or support would help you to better understand or discuss EIBI services?
- How do you ensure families feel comfortable and informed about these services?

References and resources

- **Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 101 CMR 358.00: Rates for Applied Behavior Analysis. Retrieved from; [101 CMR 358.00: Rates for Applied Behavior Analysis | Mass.gov](#)**
- **Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Find an Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention provider.**

Retrieved from; [Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Provider Directory](#)

- Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Autism EIBI Starting Points 2026. Retrieved from; [Early Intervention \(EI\) Specialty Services | Mass.gov](#)
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Down syndrome EIBI Starting Points 2026. Retrieved from; [Early Intervention \(EI\) Specialty Services | Mass.gov](#)
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI): Part C EIBI Services. Retrieved from; [Early Intervention \(EI\) Specialty Services | Mass.gov](#)
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Early Intervention Operational Standards (2026). Retrieved from; [Early Intervention policies | Mass.gov](#)