

# Early Support for Infants and Toddlers

## AGENCY REQUEST LEGISLATION AND DECISION PACKAGE

This request would support the use of the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) State Special Education 0-3 funding for the full months of service provided to eligible infants and toddlers.

ESIT is included in the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, requiring early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities, ages birth through age 3 years, and their families, to:

- ✓ Enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities.
- ✓ Reduce educational costs by minimizing the need for special education through early intervention.
- ✓ Enhance the capacity of families to meet their child's needs.



## CHANGING THE MONTHLY COUNT DATE

- ✓ Current law limits DCYF and local ESIT provider agencies from counting eligible children for the full number of months they receive services.
- ✓ If this proposal is enacted, ESIT providers will receive payment for the true amount of services they provide to eligible children and families.

## SOLUTION

Revise RCW 43.216.580 to define children to be receiving early intervention services “...if the child has received services within the same month as the monthly count day, which is the last business day of the month”.

### DCYF Strategic Priority Alignment

- Create a high-quality integrated B-8 system.
- Improve quality and availability of provider services.



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

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## ESIT SERVICES

ESIT providers serve more than 21,000 children per year.

Many programs offer evidence-based therapies in the child's natural learning environments, such as home or child care centers. Some providers offer virtual service options.

Services may include:

- ✓ Occupational and physical therapy
- ✓ Speech-language pathology
- ✓ Special education
- ✓ Infant mental health
- ✓ Family resources support

## COST

\$4,185,000

### Contact:

DCYF Office of Public Affairs  
[dcyf.gov@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.gov@dcyf.wa.gov)

## SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY



**Supported by the Early Childhood Development Association of Washington (ECDAW) and the WeeCare Coalition**

*"The referral and intake process sets the tone for our relationship with each family and can take up to 45 days to complete. The month that requires the most resources is the month ESIT doesn't currently fund. One additional month of funding means we can serve more families!"*

**Colleen Fuchs, Executive Director,  
Joya Child and Family Development  
(Spokane)**



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