

Finding Best Fit Developmental Intervention Center

Factors to Consider for Identifying a Family's Best Fit Clinical Center:

1. **Geography.** It is almost always ideal for families to receive their intervention service locally, with a preference for staying in-state. This supports the family in connecting with a resource that will be able to provide ongoing support, make region-specific recommendations/referrals, and provide guidance on navigating state-specific systems.
2. **Existing relationships.** If a family already receives much of their sub-specialty care from an institution that can provide the needed service, it may make sense to seek this within the same service system.
3. **Access barriers.** Factors like insurance coverage, wait-times, and interpreter services should also be considered when determining the best fit for a family.

Early Intervention

Under 3 years:

- Missouri First Steps: <https://www.mofirststeps.com/>
- Kansas Infant Toddler Services: <http://www.ksits.org/>

Over 3 years of age:

- Refer to child's school district for evaluation early childhood special education

Other Clinical Resources

Children's Mercy Clinics:

- **Speech**
- **Hearing**
- **Vision**
- **Fine and/or Gross Motor**
- **Dysmorphic Features**
- **Hypotonia**

Links to the Children's Mercy clinics that provide these services are listed below, but we strongly encourage families and referring providers to use the framework described above to determine if this is the best fit for them. Referral options can be obtained by contacting a family's insurance provider and/or requesting guidance from the Children's Mercy Clinics.

These guidelines do not establish a standard of care to be followed in every case. It is recognized that each case is different and those individuals involved in providing health care are expected to use their judgment in determining what is in the best interests of the patient based on the circumstances existing at the time. It is impossible to anticipate all possible situations that may exist and to prepare guidelines for each. Accordingly these guidelines should guide care with the understanding that departures from them may be required at times.

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