

**Process for entering the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM)**

**To be considered to receive ESDM services, review, AS AN EI TEAM, the child-specific questions on the ESDM Questions to Consider form:**

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| 1. Has the child received an autism diagnosis, or  Is the child in the process of further evaluation and the team feels strongly that a diagnosis will be given. | YES NO  \_\_\_Diagnosis  \_\_\_Diagnostic process |
| 2. Is the child age 12 months to 33 months? | YES NO |
| 3. Is the child at a developmental age of at least 7-9 months? | YES NO |
| 4. The child is *NOT* receiving services (other than coaching) that specifically address the diagnosis of autism? (e.g., section 28, ABA program, clinic-based services) | YES NO |
| 5. Mark the deficits identified through assessment or observation.  Does the child demonstrate deficits in at least 4 of the 5 domains? | Imitation \_\_  Play \_\_  Social development \_\_  Verbal communication \_\_  Non-verbal communication \_\_  YES NO |

*If you answered NO to any of the child-specific questions, then the child and family may not benefit from ESDM intervention. You are encouraged to engage in further discussion with the EI team.*

**IF child meets above criteria, then review, AS AN EI TEAM, the family-specific questions from the ESDM Questions to Consider form:**

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| 1. Is the family willing and able to commit to the increased duration and frequency of the ESDM intervention provided in their home? | YES NO |
| 2. Will the family commit to a minimal amount of active family involvement during each ESDM session and allow the ESDM-P and the PSP to work directly with the child? | YES NO |
| 3. Does the family understand that they need to be present during ESDM sessions, and that they will continue to be involved in coaching with the PSP? | YES NO |

**If it is necessary to provide ESDM services in a childcare setting, then review as an EI team the childcare specific questions.**

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| 1. If a child’s natural environment is within a childcare setting, will the childcare provider be willing and able to commit to the increased duration and frequency of the ESDM intervention provided in the childcare environment? | YES NO |
| 2. Will the childcare provider commit to a designated space for the ESDM-P and PSP to provide intervention? | YES NO |

***If you answered NO to any of the family/childcare provider-specific questions, then this child and family may not benefit from ESDM intervention. You are encouraged to engage in further discussion with the EI team.***

**If EI team determines the child is a candidate for ESDM:**

* PSP or SC meets with the family to explain the ESDM and to determine family level of interest.
* PSP or SC provides family with resources to learn more about ESDM to support family decision making.
* If the family agrees to ESDM, then PSP or SC works with the family to complete the Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research (MAIER) ESDM paperwork:
  1. Early Start Denver.pdf
  2. ESDM\_FamilyLetter.docx
  3. ESDM\_Consent.docx
* SC will notify the ESDM-P of the child/family and send the IFSP, MAIER consent form, and the ESDM Family Letter to the ESDM-P.
* ESDM-P will contact family and conduct initial visit to complete the ESDM assessment. ESDM-P will notify SC of completed assessment with recommendations.
* Considering the results of the ESDM assessment, the EI team will identify the most appropriate ESDM-trained PSP.
* SC will schedule an IFSP meeting. ESDM-P is not expected to attend; however, the ESDM-trained PSP should be in attendance.
* During IFSP meeting the team will:
  1. Review IFSP Outcomes and add or modify as needed.
  2. Adjust frequency, intensity, and/or type of services to reflect the recommended amount of ESDM.
  3. ESDM is listed as SI (not as ESDM) on the IFSP. See below for IFSP guidance.
  4. Identify the necessary frequency and intensity of coaching per week and add to the ESDM time. Ex: 8 hrs.of ESDM and 1 hour of coaching = 9 hours.
  5. Discuss consultations, joint visits, and weekly EI team meetings.
  6. Team determinations regarding ESDM should be clearly detailed on the Written Notice.
* Service coordinator completes and sends a new referral packet to ESDM-trained PSP.

**IFSP Guidance for ESDM**

* ESDM listed as SI (not as ESDM) on one line in the service grid reflecting the combined total of ESDM and Coaching hours.
* The comment section of the referral should reflect the distribution of Coaching and ESDM across the total hours.
* Consult should be listed for ESDM-P for 15 minutes/quarterly (choose special educator from the Case-e menu).
* Choose MAIER as the provider if needed, not the name of the ESDM-P. MAIER is a choice in the Case-e menu.