

SOONERSTART – EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM, cont. . .

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See Appendix B for
SoonerStart Early
Intervention Offices.

APPEALS PROCESS

1. Informal Process: Families should go back to the Early Intervention Coordinator with concerns about services and ask for a meeting to work out the request through local procedures to expedite resolution of the problem. However, families have the right to go through the formal process, in addition to, or in lieu of, the informal process.
2. Formal Process: Complaints must be written and include:
 - how SoonerStart has violated a requirement under Part C of IDEA;
 - the basic facts which lead to the belief that the law has been violated;
 - complaints pertaining to a specific child with a disability that include the child's name, date of birth, and current IFSP; and
 - the signature of person(s) filing the complaint.
3. Upon receipt of a complaint or request for a due process hearing, the Early Intervention Unit will offer mediation within five working days of receiving the complaint or hearing request. A request for a due process hearing must be in writing, signed, and addressed to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (Attention: SoonerStart Early Intervention Program), 2500 N Lincoln Boulevard, Ste 510, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-4599.
4. The Oklahoma Parents Center is available to provide information on federal and state laws regarding the provision of early intervention services, and parent rights and responsibilities to all eligible infants and toddlers and their families.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

- There is no direct cost to families for early intervention services, regardless of the family's income.
- SoonerStart is a joint effort of the Oklahoma Departments of: Education, Health, Human Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Health Care Authority and the Commission on Children and Youth. Its lead agency is the Oklahoma State Department of Education.
- The IFSP is a coordinated plan of service based on the identified needs of the individual child and family. The IFSP is jointly developed by the family and appropriate early intervention personnel.
- The early intervention services identified in the IFSP may include assistive technology devices that are used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of children with disabilities.
- AT devices provided by SoonerStart remains the property of the program.
- AT devices are available for demonstration to help families and caregivers decide if one or more AT devices will meet the child's needs. Many devices are provided for demonstration and short-term loan purposes by ABLE Tech.
- For children that may be eligible for IDEA Part B services, at least 90 days before the child's third birthday, a meeting to ensure a smooth transition from SoonerStart to the preschool program under Part B of IDEA will be held. If the child is eligible for special education services, any needs for AT will be addressed by the Individual Education Plan (IEP). (See Page 64, Special Education Services Division).