Child Find Procedures for Children who are Subjects of Abuse and Children who are in Foster Care or Wards of the State

I. Children who are Subjects of Abuse or Neglect

1. Pennsylvania law defines child abuse as any of the following when committed upon a child under 18 years of age by a perpetrator:
   a. Any recent act or failure to act which causes non-accidental serious physical injury.
   b. An act or failure to act which causes non-accidental serious mental injury or sexual abuse or exploitation.
   c. A recent act, failure to act or series of such acts or failures to act which creates an imminent risk of serious physical injury or sexual abuse or exploitation.
   d. Serious physical neglect which endangers a child’s life or development or impairs a child’s functioning.

2. Children who are involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect or who are identified as affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure as defined IDEA Amendments of 2004.

3. Following the provisions in IDEA 2004 and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention collaborates with the Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS) to ensure that infants and toddlers receive a developmental screening. In Philadelphia, DHS coordinates the care of children with the Community Umbrella Agencies (CUAs).

4. If the child shows developmental concerns on the screening (e.g., ASQ-3 [Ages and Stages Questionnaire – 3] or ASQ - SE, DHS/CUA refers the child to Infant Toddler Early Intervention (IT EI) Intake and will supply a copy of the summary sheet from the ASQ.

5. The IT EI Intake Coordinator will contact the family to complete the Intake and assign the child and family to the Service Coordination entity. They will request the ASQ summary from (with the scores) if it has not been supplied by DHS/CUA.

6. The assigned Service Coordinator (SC) will contact the family and arrange an initial visit.

7. At the Initial Visit, the SC will review the concerns identified on the ASQ-3 and the concerns and priorities of the family. With the parent’s consent during this initial visit, the SC will schedule a multi-disciplinary evaluation (MDE) to determine if the child is eligible for Early Intervention services.

8. The Philadelphia IT EI will collaborate with Philadelphia DHS to ensure that children are referred if the family is interested in Regular Developmental Screening (for children who are considered at risk for developmental delay). The SC will inform the family that the child is eligible for Regular Developmental Screening if it is determined that the child is not currently exhibiting any developmental concerns. With the parent’s consent, the SC will enroll the child in Regular Developmental Screening.

9. Philadelphia IT EI will collaborate with Philadelphia DHS/CUA to supply the names of parents/caregivers or foster parents who decline a MDE or EI services for a child who is...
showing developmental concerns on the assessment or has been determined to be eligible for services. When abuse or neglect has been substantiated (i.e., founded or indicated) but the child continues to reside with the parent/caregiver, then written consent from the parent/caregiver to release this information to DHS/CUA will need to be obtained in order to release information about the family’s participation in the MDE or EI services.

II. Children who are in Foster Care or Wards of the State

1. Philadelphia IT EI will develop an annual Interagency Agreement with Philadelphia DHS/CUA.
2. When DHS/CUA makes a referral, IT EI Intake will follow up with the foster parent to complete the referral and assign the referral to the Service Coordination entity.
3. The SC will contact the foster care parent and arrange a home visit.
4. At the Initial Visit, the SC will review the child’s development and priorities of the foster parent. With the parent’s consent the SC will schedule a multi-disciplinary evaluation (MDE) to determine if the child is eligible for Early Intervention services.
5. The SC will also review with the foster parent the child’s eligibility for at-risk tracking.
6. If at any time the foster parent declines any step of the early intervention process that is recommended (MDE, EI services, At Risk Tracking), the Service Coordinator will report this to the County who will share information with Children and Youth.
7. For children who need a surrogate parent assigned, see Philadelphia IT EI Surrogate Parent procedure.