



Dear Families, Caregivers and Providers,

The Capital Area Intermediate Unit Early Intervention program provides special education services to children from age 3 years until Kindergarten entry. Our program is often referred to as “Preschool”, however the CAIU EI program is different in that it provides individualized early intervention special education services for preschool-age children with eligible delays.

Eligibility is determined based on federal and state guidelines through a 2-step process that involves first an evaluation and then the development of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) based on eligibility.

Services are provided by trained professionals and may consist of specialized instruction, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy as well as hearing and vision support provided in a variety of settings based on the child’s IEP.

The CAIU program works closely with the infant and toddler program to insure a smooth transition for children/families as they navigate from one program to the next. Although both programs are similar in some ways, there are also some differences that are outlined below.

Differences between Early Intervention 0-3 years and Early Intervention 3-5 years programs are:

EI 0-3 years	EI 3-5 years
Follow a 12 months/year calendar	Follow a “stretch” calendar, equivalent to a school year over 12 months
“Natural” environment: home or early childhood environment (community daycare or preschool)	“Least restrictive” environment: home, early childhood environment (community daycare or preschool), service at a CAIU provider location, or other location as agreed upon by the IEP team in accordance with “FAPE” (free and appropriate education..
Documentation: ER (Evaluation Report) and IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan)	Documentation: ER and IEP
Age Range: birth – 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday	Age Range: 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday – kindergarten entry
Eligibility: at least a 25% delay in one or more areas of development OR by informed clinical opinion of a professional OR by a diagnosis of a known medical condition with a high probability for developmental delays	Eligibility: at least a 25% delay in one or more areas of development OR a diagnosed medical or physical disability <b>AND</b> a need for special education and related services

\*Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

As we look to the future, the CAIU EI Program will continue to evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of our population in the most effective ways possible. We look forward to working together towards this goal.

Sincerely,

The CAIU Early Intervention Program