

FAMILY EDUCATION & SUPPORT SERVICES TIMELINE

Family Education & Support (FES) is a Montana program that pairs professionals in development, education, behavior, social work or psychology with families whose children or teens have developmental delays. A Family Support Specialist (FSS) provides coaching, information, strategies, and resources to strengthen the whole family for the good of the child. FES services provide support in achieving the outcomes set in the Service Coordination Plan (SCP) by the family. With the guidance of the multidisciplinary team, the FSS will develop steps that work towards the goals and assist the family with the structure and support needed to complete those goals. This can take on many forms, including visual aids like task charts and flash cards, verbiage to encourage the child's behavior, and parent coaching to increase success. The FSS will also help the family navigate what other resources in the community may be helpful, including therapies.



REFERRAL
Family Outreach receives a referral for the child.

INTAKE
The Family Support Coordinator (FSC) will call the family to schedule an intake.

*** After three unsuccessful attempts to contact, Family Outreach will send a letter providing notice that the child's referral will be closed. The family is encouraged to contact Family Outreach again at any time.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY ELIGIBILITY
In addition to input from qualified professionals acting as members of the child's multidisciplinary team, a developmental assessment is used to determine eligibility. Qualifying children meet the following criteria:
a). one measurable delay of 50% in one developmental area; or
b). a 25% measurable delay in two or more developmental areas.

ROUTINES-BASED INTERVIEW
The assigned FSS will call the family to schedule the Routines-Based Interview (RBI). This is an informal semi-structured discussion of the family's day to day activities that helps to determine how early intervention services can best support the child and family.

SERVICE COORDINATION PLAN
The FSS will work with the multidisciplinary team, which includes the family and other professionals involved in the child's care to develop the Service Coordination Plan (SCP). A signed SCP is required in order for FES services to begin.

*** The SCP must be developed within 45 days of the referral or from being selected off the waitlist for active FES services.

ANNUAL REVIEW
The SCP will be reviewed annually (or as needed) by the family and FSS with input from the multidisciplinary team members. A new SCP is developed annually as long as the child continues to meet eligibility requirements and the family continues to participate in services.



If there is not an available opening for FES services, the child is placed on a waiting list for FES services as well as any other developmental disability service waiting list that may be applicable with the parent's written consent. If a child is on the FES Waitlist for more than 12 months, Family Outreach will contact the family to confirm their continued interest in FES services and make necessary updates to waitlist matrix and related documentation.