



Early Intervention Terms and Acronyms

Early ACCESS Terms – Birth to 3

Term	Acronym	Explanation
Accessible Instructional Materials/Accessible Educational Materials	AIM/AEM	Materials that provide the same educational information found in textbooks, pamphlets, etc. in a different format. Examples include Braille, large print, audio, and digital text. (May also be referred to as AIM; AEM is the newer, broader term for accessible materials.)
Americans with Disabilities Act	ADA	A federal civil rights law that protects people with disabilities at work, school, and in public places.
Area Education Agency	AEA	The state of Iowa is divided into nine AEAs. Each AEA provides local school districts with support and assistance.
Assistive Technology	AT	Any service or device, including software or equipment, that helps people work around their challenges. Examples include pencil grips, test to speech, or word prediction software.
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit Disorder	ADHD/ADD	A disorder that affects attention, self-control, and may include hyperactivity. This can cause a range of behavior issues such as difficulty attending to instruction, focusing on schoolwork, keeping up with assignments, following instructions, completing tasks and social interaction.
Augmentative and Alternative Communication	AAC	A means of communicating ideas and feelings that does not involve speaking. Examples include sign language, pictures, mobile device, and speech-generating devices.
Autism Spectrum Disorder	ASD	A condition related to brain development that impacts how a person perceives and socializes with others, causing problems in social interaction and communication.
Behavior Disorder	BD	A disorder which impacts a child's education and social relationships. This may include disorders such as anxiety, disruptive behavioral disorders, emotional disorders, etc.

Term	Acronym	Explanation
Center for Disease Control and Prevention	CDC	The United States' health protection agency whose focus is to save lives and protect people from health, safety, and security threats.
Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data System	DaSy	The DaSy Center is a national technical assistance center that works with states to support IDEA early intervention and early childhood special education state programs in building high quality data systems and using data to improve results for young children with disabilities and their families.
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act	CAPTA	Federal funding and guidance provided to states in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treat activities related to child abuse and neglect.
Child Abuse Protection Worker	CPW	An employee of the Iowa Department of Human Services who assesses concerns regarding suspected abuse and neglect.
Child Health Specialty Clinics	CHSC	A community-based public health agency located at the University of Iowa, with satellite offices statewide, that serves Iowa children and youth with special health care needs.
Child Outcome Summary Process – refers to the process related to the Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) – See Below	COS	<p>A summary of a child's functioning in each of the following three child outcome areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive social-emotional skills, including social relationships • Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, including early language/communication and early literacy • Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs	CYSHCN	Children and youth who have or are at increased risk of developing chronic conditions and require services beyond those required by others of the same age.
Deaf or Hard of Hearing	DDH	A hearing loss which impacts an individual's life.
Department of Human Services	DHS	<p>Iowa's agency that provides public assistance programs to the state's residents in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance programs • Family services • Health care • Mental health and disability services
Developmental Delay/Developmental Disability	DD	An impairment in physical, learning, language and/or behavior impacting day-to-day functioning, typically lasting throughout a person's lifetime.

Term	Acronym	Explanation
Disability Suspect	DS	A term indicating that a disability is suspected that may be impacting a child's performance in school. This would trigger the need for a Full and Individual Initial Evaluation (IEE).
Division of Child and Community Health, University of Iowa	DCCH	A division of the Carver College of Medicine that focuses on child health with an approach that recognizes the importance of family, school, and community to a child's health.
Early ACCESS	EA	Iowa's system for providing early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to age 3, with a developmental delay or disability. This program includes support to parents to help their children learn and grow.
Early Childhood Iowa	ECI	Programs across the state which provide support to achieve proven results for children ages 0–5 and their families.
Early Childhood Outcomes	ECO	<p>The goal of early intervention and early childhood special education is to enable young children with disabilities to be active and successful participants during their early childhood years and in the future. The three Early Childhood Outcomes areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive social-emotional skills (social relationships) • Acquires and uses knowledge and skills (early language/communication) • Uses appropriate behaviors to meet their needs
Early Head Start	EHS	A program that provides child development and family support services to low income children ages 0–3, pregnant women, and their families.
Early Hearing, Detection, and Intervention	EHDI	A statewide hearing program that ensures all newborns and toddlers are screened and identified as early as possible and provided with services.
Early Intervention/ Early ACCESS	EI/EA	A system of services that helps babies and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. The focus is on helping eligible babies and toddlers learn skills that typically develop from ages 0–3.
Eligible Individual	EI	In Iowa, the term 'eligible individual' is used to describe any student who has been determined to be eligible for special education services and/or supports and who has an IFSP/IEP.

Term	Acronym	Explanation
Emotional Disturbance/ Emotional Disorder/ Emotional Disability	ED	<p>A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to such a degree that it negatively affects a child’s educational performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors • An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers • Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances • A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression • A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems
Family & Educator Partnership	FEP	A program that develops and sustains partnerships between families, educators, and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.
Family Guided Routines Based Intervention	FGRBI	A program that develops and sustains partnerships between families, educators, and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.
Free & Appropriate Public Education	FAPE	Special education and related services that are free and appropriate for a student’s unique needs, guaranteed under IDEA.
Head Start	HS	A program that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and families.
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act	HIPAA	A federal law that ensures the confidentiality and security of an individual’s protected health information (PHI).
Individualized Family Service Plan	IFSP	A plan that guides the family and their child during the early years of development, from birth to age 3. A child who is found to be eligible can qualify for an IFSP and receive early intervention services.
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	IDEA	A federal law which guarantees the educational rights of individuals with disabilities.
Initial Evaluation/ Child Find		A process to evaluate a child who is suspected of having a disability and who is potentially eligible for special education.
Intellectual Disability	ID	Significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills.

Term	Acronym	Explanation
Iowa Administrative Code	IAC	All rules are adopted and administered by the executive branch agencies to implement state law and policy.
Iowa Department of Education	IDOE/IDE/DE	The education agency in the state of Iowa.
Iowa Department of Public Health	IDPH	A partnership of local public health, non-profit organizations, health care providers, policymakers, businesses, and others working together to protect and improve the health of Iowans.
Iowa Family Support Network	IFSN	A website which includes information and referral for Early ACCESS, along with Family Support Services and Group-Based Parenting Programs.
Iowa IDEA Information	i3	An online and accessible platform for procedures, guidance, and resources related to Early Intervention and Special Education.
Learning Disability/ Specific Learning Disability	LD/SLD	An umbrella term for a variety of learning problems. These typically fall into three categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dyslexia (reading issues) • Dysgraphia (writing issues) • Dyscalculia (math issues)
Local Education Agency	LEA	The local school district.
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	MIECHV	A program that gives pregnant women and families, particularly those considered at-risk, necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn.
Occupational Therapy	OT	Provides help for people to fully engage in all aspects of life, including school, work, and play. Examples could be assistance in areas of daily living such as cooking, dressing, eating, or driving.
Office of Special Education Programs	OSEP	A division of the U.S. Department of Education focused solely upon special education.
Other Health Impairment	OHI	A disability that includes limited strength, vitality, or alertness due to chronic health problems. In addition, developmental delays or problems with education performance may result.
Part C		The section of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act that outlines the requirements for services to infants and toddlers ages 0–3.
Physical Therapy	PT	Specially designed exercises and equipment to help people improve or regain their physical abilities.
Primary Service Provider	PSP	The lead resource of an early intervention team who will serve as the primary point of contact with the family.

Term	Acronym	Explanation
Prior Written Notice	PWN	A written notice to families providing information on the proposed or refused actions as a part of the IFSP/IEP process.
Procedural Safeguards		Explanation of the specific rights and responsibilities of the family in the special education process. Translations of the manual are available in seven languages: English, Arabic, Bosnian, Laotian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
Service Coordinator	SC	The team member of an early intervention team who serves as the primary point of contact with the family.
Special Education	Sp.Ed./Sped	Supports and services provided to eligible individuals to address their unique needs.
Speech Language Pathologist	SLP	An expert in communication who assess, diagnose, and treat individuals with communication and swallowing disorders.
Traumatic Brain Injury	TBI	Sudden damage to the brain caused by a bump, blow, or a jolt to the head. Injuries can range from mild concussions to severe permanent brain damage.
Visual Impairment	VI	Impairment to vision that adversely affects an individual's learning. This includes partial sight and blindness.
Women, Infants, and Children program	WIC	Federal grants provided to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.