

Early Identification of Children with Special Needs & Disabilities

What is the Early Identification Initiative?

Because early identification of children with disabilities improves outcomes for those children and their families, United Way of Wyoming Valley's Success By 6[®] program has developed the Early Identification Initiative. Many children with disabilities who participate in early identification programs have a higher level of success than those who do not. We trust that through this initiative, all children with disabilities, no matter how great or small, will experience success by six.

The Early Identification Initiative is comprised of three focus areas: Physician Outreach, Media Campaign, and Child Care Education/Awareness. These three focus areas have committees that meet regularly to plan and carry out the EI Initiative. Their missions are described below.

Child Care Education/Awareness

Mission: To conduct trainings and programs that foster child care professionalism and development. It is our mission that despite large turnover rates in child care centers, staff members will still have the essential tools that are needed for identifying children with disabilities early.

Media Campaign

Mission: To inform parents/guardians what "normal" development is for children 0-5 years of age. It is our mission, that media resources will assist us in educating parents on free services available to families. The media campaign will play a huge role in getting the message of how important early identification really is to a child's growth and development out to the community.

Physician Outreach

Mission: To increase the number of correct referrals to early intervention through a questionnaire. This questionnaire will be used at physician offices, completed by the parent/guardian, and is then used as a "conversation starter" between the parties. It is our mission, that these questionnaires increase the number of children for early identification, thus increasing school readiness and encouraging success by six.

Art work was provided by students at the Rainbow Hill Childcare Center.



[To find out how you can be a part of this exciting endeavor, please contact:](#)

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