Early Intervention Programme for Infants & Children

1. My child is a foreigner but not a PR. Where can my child go for early intervention programmes?
   You are advised to check with your paediatrician for recommendations on early intervention programmes offered by private intervention centres, as only Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible for EIPIC at government-funded centres.

2. What is SG Enable's role in the EIPIC process?
   SG Enable will provide you with information that will help you make an informed decision regarding the choice of EIPIC centre for your child. Information shared will include location of centres, types of services offered by centres (e.g. therapy, transport), estimated wait time to enrolment, and caregiver presence requirement. Thereafter SG Enable will submit a referral to the EIPIC centre on your behalf.

3. How soon can my child be enrolled in an EIPIC centre?
   It depends on the centre's wait list. Centres' estimated wait times can be found in the EIPIC Service Matrix (PDF).

4. Is EIPIC a full-day programme with a childcare facility?
   No. Generally, the duration of each EIPIC session ranges from 2 to 4 hours. The session frequency ranges from 2 to 5 days per week, depending on the centre's assessment of your child's needs.

5. Do I get to choose whether my child attends the morning or afternoon session or the number of sessions I would like my child to undergo?
   You may raise your preference for the morning or afternoon session with the centre during your child's screening at the centre. However, such requests are subject to the centre's assessment and discretion.
   With regard to the session frequency, the centre's therapist will assess your child and advise on the suitable programme and its frequency.

6. Do I get to choose the type of therapy that my child undergoes?
   No. All the EIPIC centres offer a holistic programme that focusses on developmental, functional, social, motor, cognitive, language, communication and self-help skills.
   If you only want a certain component of the programme, you may want to explore private intervention instead.

7. How will I know which centres have transport facilities or whether the transport network covers my residential area?
   Availability of transport services can be found in the EIPIC Service Matrix (PDF).
   Transport services are provided by external transport operators. Please contact the individual centres directly to enquire on transport fees and whether the transport network covers your residential area. You can also let the centre know if you have any special requests on transport arrangements.

8. Can I visit the centre before deciding on my preferred choice for my child?
   Yes. As it is up to the centres to decide if they allow visitors, you are advised to contact them to schedule a visit. The centres' contact details are available in the EIPIC Service Matrix (PDF).

9. Can I place my child on the waiting lists of different EIPIC centres at the same time?
   No. Your child may only be referred to one EIPIC centre at any given time.
10. Can I request for my child to be transferred to another EIPIC centre, after my child has already been enrolled?
You may contact the assigned SG Enable staff and request for a transfer if there is a valid reason for doing so, for instance, if you are moving house.

Please note that your child would be required to serve a notice period at the existing centre and has to be discharged first before he/she is able to enrol in the new centre.

11. I had previously withdrawn my child from EIPIC. Can my child's application be reinstated?
Yes. The assigned SG Enable staff will advise if the medical report is valid for reinstatement.
(Medical reports are valid for 1 year only.)
If the medical report is no longer valid, an updated medical report will be required from your child's paediatrician.

12. I might not be able to afford the fees for EIPIC. How much subsidy am I entitled to, and how do I request for further financial assistance?
All government-funded EIPIC centres have subsidy schemes in place to help families defray the programme fees. National means-testing will be conducted to decide how much subsidy should be given. You may also tap on the Baby Bonus scheme to offset the EIPIC fees.
If you need further financial assistance, you should discuss it with the centre during your child's screening. You may also approach your nearest Family Service Centre (FSC) or Social Service Office (SSO) to apply for financial aid.

13. How do I know if my child is ready to progress to Primary 1 in a mainstream school?
Your child will have an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) drawn up by the EIPIC centre to track his/her progress. The centre will share this information periodically with you.

When your child reaches the age of 5.5 to 6 years, the centre psychologist will assess your child or recommend an assessment with the hospital's psychologist to determine if he/she is suitable and ready for mainstream education.

If your child is found unsuitable for mainstream education, the psychologist may recommend that you enrol your child in a Special Education school. More information on Special Education schools can be found in the Ministry of Education's website.

If your child is assessed suitable, but not yet ready for mainstream education, the hospital may recommend a deferment of Primary 1 of up to a year.

14. Where can I find information on private therapy centres?
Information on Baby Bonus-Approved Institutions that provide early intervention services and therapies is available in the Baby Bonus website by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF). Fees at these centres could be offset by your child's Child Development Account (CDA). Please approach the centres directly if you are keen to engage their services.

15. My child is between 7 and 18 years old, and has special needs. Who can I approach for help?
Please consult your child’s paediatrician or specialist doctor for professional advice on your child’s needs. He or she would be able to refer your child to a Special Education (SPED) School or / and other services if assessed suitable. If your child does not have any prior medical follow-up, and you would like to seek subsidised consultation services, please visit a polyclinic for a referral to a relevant specialist doctor.
16. Is there an early intervention programme for older children? If so, how do I enrol my child for this programme?

Older children with special needs may enrol in Special Education (SPED) schools. Please check with MOE directly or refer to its website for more details. Alternatively, you may contact the SPED schools directly for more information.

For older children who are enrolled in mainstream schools, you may wish to approach your child’s school for advice. Please refer to MOE’s website for more information. Alternatively, you may consult your child’s paediatrician or specialist doctor for professional advice on your child’s needs.