

From Awareness to Advocacy

An Educator's Guide to Support Pathways

A practical resource for Early Childhood Educators to help families navigate the first steps of early intervention, clinical services, and public school-based services.



BECKER'S®

Referral Process

**Early Intervention
(birth - age 3)**

INITIATION OF ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

- Written referral may originate from teacher, family, or clinician
- If educator is referring party, preliminary communication with family/guardian is recommended
- Family/guardian consent required for evaluation process to begin

EVALUATION PROCESS

Within 45 days of referral, Early Intervention Services must:

- Conduct assessments
- Determine eligibility
- If found eligible, schedule Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting
- Develop an IFSP and receive consent from family/guardian

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

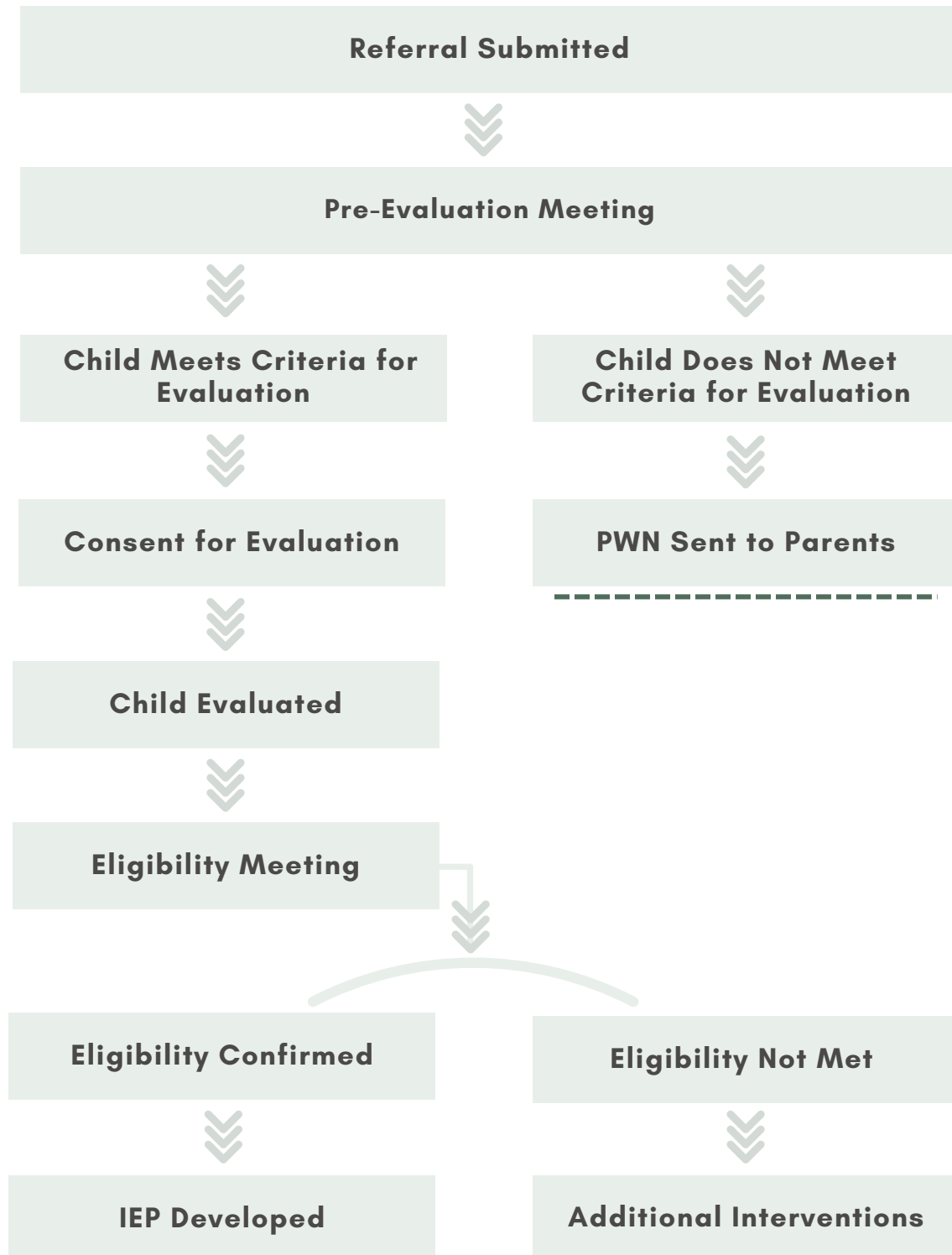
- Services required to begin within 30 days of signed IFSP
- IFSP to be reviewed and updated at least every six months
- Services may include Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy, or Developmental Services

TRANSITION TO NEXT PHASE

- Family Service Coordinator schedules Transition Conference
- Outcomes could include:
 - Services no longer required
 - Transition to private services
 - Transition to public services

Referral Process

ages 3+



Clarifying Service Pathways

MEDICAL

Age: Any age

Fee Structure: Insurance or out-of-pocket

Eligibility Authority: Formal diagnosis (doctor or clinician)

Process: Diagnosis guides treatment

Setting: Services typically provided in a clinical setting

Context: Children may qualify for medical support, but not Early Intervention or school-based services.

EARLY INTERVENTION

Age: Birth – age 3

Fee Structure: Low-cost sliding scale

Eligibility Authority: Service coordinator provides guidance

Eligibility Details: Some children eligible at birth or shortly after

Setting: Services typically provided in a home or childcare

Context: Family centered

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Age: Age 3 – school age (varies by state)

Fee Structure: No cost to family

Eligibility Authority: IEP team determines eligibility

Eligibility Details: Qualification dependent on educational impact

Setting: Services provided in least restrictive environment (LRE)

Context: Child centered