Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)

Joint Initiative between ESIT State Leadership Office and King County Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division

Frequently Asked Questions for Families

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) supports families of babies and toddlers (birth to age 3) who may have developmental delays or disabilities. The program works closely with families to give them the tools and guidance they need to support their child's development. ESIT provides support, therapy, and resources to help children learn and grow during their most important early years.

ESIT is funded through a combination of federal and state dollars. ESIT receives funding under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a federal law that ensures early intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. IDEA Part C provides states with grants to support program development. In addition to federal funding, Washington state also provides significant resources to ensure that ESIT services are available to all eligible families.

Across Washington state, community-based agencies, nonprofits, and hospitals provide ESIT services to families. To participate in the ESIT program, provider agencies will need to collect some information from families to support them in an individualized way. The purpose of this document is to help families understand what information does and does not need to be collected to participate in services.

Does ESIT ask about immigration status?

- No. ESIT does not ask about, or require, the immigration status of a child or caregivers.

Does ESIT ask for birth certificate?

- No. ESIT does not ask for, or require, a birth certificate of a child or caregivers.

Does ESIT ask for social security numbers?

- No. ESIT does not ask for, or require, a social security number of a child or caregivers.

Personal Identifying Information

What personal identifying information is asked about me (caregivers/parents) for enrollment?

- First + last name

What personal identifying information is asked about my child for enrollment?

- First + last name
- Address
- Date of birth
    - ESIT services support children under age 3, so your child's birth date confirms eligibility and guides a plan for required transition activities at age 3. States must report age demographic trends in Part C early intervention programs to the U.S. Department of Education. Child and family personal identifying information is **not** reported at the federal level.

Demographics

What demographics information will your family be asked about?

- Primary Language
    - You are **not** required to answer this. However, we may ask if you would like language access supports, such as interpretation or translation.
- Race/Ethnicity
    - This information is self-reported. You may respond in any way you're comfortable.
    - Race and ethnicity are requested to ensure equitable access to services, track trends, and ensure resources are addressing community needs. States are required by the U.S. Department of Education to track demographic trends in Part C early intervention programs. Individual child and family demographics are **not** reported at the federal level.

Other Information

What other information will your family be asked about?

- Phone number
    - Your phone number will be used to coordinate services, keep families informed, and ensure timely communication about services. Caregivers with privacy concerns can request other types of communication.
    - This is required for enrollment but **not** shared outside of our state system.
- Child's birth and development history

    - We collect this information to support your child's developmental goals and to be aware of any important medical information. You can share as much or as little as your family is comfortable with. For example, you don't have to share where your child was born.
- Child/family routines and activities
    - We collect this information to support functional and individualized outcomes for your child and family. You can share as much or as little as your family is comfortable with. For example, you don't need to share names of family members or specifics about places your family spends time at.
- Family concerns, resources, and priorities
    - This information supports us in being able to address your family's priorities and to create a plan that is individual to your child. You can share as much or as little as your family is comfortable with.

Who has Access to My Data?

Will my child/family data be shared at the federal level?

No, we share statewide percentages and total enrollment numbers, but no personal identifiable information is shared. For example, the state will report the number of children served in each county, but names and addresses are **not** shared outside of Washington state.

Will my child and family's data be shared with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)?

No, there are several laws that protect your child and family's individual data, including: the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the Keep Washington Working Act. See the ***Privacy and Protections Policy Table*** below for more information.

Privacy and Protections Policy Table

FEDERAL

Policy	Link	Description
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) | Public Health Law | CDC	HIPAA is a federal law that protects your personal health information (PHI) from being shared without your consent. PHI includes individually identifiable health information relating to an individual's health, health care, or payment for health care.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)	FERPA | Protecting Student Privacy	The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects student information. It gives parents/guardians the right to access their child's education records, have records amended, and have some control over how their child's personally identifiable information is shared.

STATE

Keep Washington Working Act This state law does not allow Washington State Patrol, all county sheriff's offices, police departments, jails, Department of Corrections (DOC) and school resource officers to share information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).	Keep Washington Working Act FAQ for Law Enforcement | Washington State Keep Washington Working - WAISN RCW 43.17.425: Immigration and citizenship status—State agency restrictions.	Over 20 state agencies, including The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), are required to make sure they collect the minimal amount of personal information from Washington state residents and that their information is not shared with ICE, unless required by law.

KING COUNTY*

Immigrant, Refugee, and Language Access Ordinance 2.15	King County Ordinance 2.15	This ordinance reinforces King County's commitment to protecting constitutional rights and providing equitable access to services, regardless of immigration or citizenship status. The ordinance establishes clear prohibitions on the use of County resources for civil immigration enforcement and sets forth requirements for employee conduct to uphold these protections. Additionally, it mandates the provision of language access services to ensure LEP individuals can access County benefits and services effectively.

*Please refer to your ESIT provider agency or county websites for policies specific to your area.