



Alabama Department of Mental Health

Programs of Early Childhood

Early Intervention Services - The Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) participates in **Alabama's Early Intervention System (AEIS)** by contracting with 23 local community agencies across the state to provide Early Intervention services to infants and toddlers with special needs and their families.

Alabama's Early Intervention System provides evaluation and assessment to determine if the child meets the state's eligibility definition (25 % delay in one or more areas of development or a medical diagnosis which has a likelihood of resulting in developmental delay). Once the child has been evaluated and found to be eligible, the family, the service coordinator, and the service providers work together to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP describes the supports and services necessary to meet the outcomes for the child and family.

EI services are provided in the child's natural environment such as home, childcare center or wherever they spend the majority of their time. Additionally, EI services are geared toward the caregivers (parents, grandparent, childcare teacher, etc. – whoever spends the most time with the child). It is an adult education model vs. direct hands-on therapy model. For more information about Alabama's Early Intervention System go to

<http://www.rehab.alabama.gov/individuals-and-families/early-intervention>.

If you have a concern about your infant or toddler's development, call Alabama's EI Child Find at 1-800-543-3098 (English) or 1-866-450-2838 (Spanish).

For questions about the EI programs contracted through ADMH, you may also call the ADMH EI Coordinator, Jane Duer, at 205-478-4756 or email her at jane.duer@mh.alabama.gov



Alabama Project LAUNCH (*Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health*)

-Project LAUNCH is a five-year federal grant awarded to ADMH in 2014 by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Mission of Alabama Project LAUNCH is to address the social and emotional health and well-being of infants, young children and their families through an integrated early childhood system of care.

Implementation is focused in Tuscaloosa County and is made possible through a strong partnership of multiple state and local agencies and non-profit organizations. In addition to ADMH, other key state-level partners include the Alabama Department of Public Health, the University of Alabama Child Development Resource Center, the Alabama Partnership for Children, and the Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Target population for Project LAUNCH includes children birth to age eight and their parents, pediatricians, and early childhood providers of these children (EI, childcare teachers, Home Visiting staff, early childhood teachers, etc.). We hope to be able to sustain the work done in Tuscaloosa County and expand statewide in the coming years. For more information go to the Alabama Project LAUNCH web page at <http://www.smartstartalabama.org/pages/?pageID=62> or contact:

Jane Duer (Principal Investigator) @ jane.duer@mh.alabama.gov 205-478-4756

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First 5 Alabama®
Alabama Association for Infant and
Early Childhood Mental Health

First 5 Alabama® - Alabama Association

for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Our Story: The Alabama Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (AAIECMH) was formed in January 2017 and will operate under the name of First 5 Alabama. During this time, the AAIECMH became a licensed affiliate of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health®, a global organization that includes those states and countries whose infant mental health associations have licensed the use of the Competency Guidelines® and Endorsement® for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health® under their associations' names.

Purpose and goals of the Association:

- ❖ promote the healthy social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of children from conception through five years of age through supportive and nurturing relationships;
- ❖ facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation among individuals concerned with promoting conditions that will bring about the optimal development of infants and young children;
- ❖ encourage the realization that infancy is a sensitive period in the psychosocial development of individuals and to promote education, research, and study of the effects of mental development during infancy on later normal and psychopathological development; and

- ❖ promote the education, professional development, and Endorsement® of professionals across multiple disciplines to increase the supply of early childhood mental health consultants to enhance programs of care, intervention, and prevention of mental impairment in infancy and early childhood.

Who should join? Anyone interested in the healthy development of children pre-birth to age five. Association membership is also required for those seeking one of the four categories of Infant and/or Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement® appropriate for practitioners, teachers, counselors, and leaders in the early childhood and mental health fields. Association members receive first notification and discounts on training, professional development opportunities and activities of the Association.

For more information about First 5 Alabama®, visit our website:

<https://www.first5alabama.org>