



about ncc



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a lifetime of opportunities for people with developmental disabilities

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National Children's Center, Inc. (NCC) was founded in 1957 by families concerned about the lack of community-based services for children with mental retardation. As our first students matured, we opened adult programs to meet their growing needs. We also started serving people with other developmental disabilities including cerebral palsy, autism and Down syndrome.

We have been providing early intervention services for young children since 1974 when we were awarded a grant from the US Department of Education for an experimental preschool program. Another early grant allowed us to gain significant expertise in providing services to teen mothers and their babies who were born prematurely and at risk for developmental disabilities. Our program grew over the years, and we opened our Southeast Campus in 1995 to accommodate a growing need and parents' requests to have services closer to their homes. All early intervention services are now provided from this campus.

Every day at NCC, we serve more than 600 children and adults with developmental disabilities.

**our mission** is to provide a lifetime of opportunities for people in our community with developmental disabilities to live full, meaningful and productive lives.

**our vision** is that people with developmental disabilities will have every resource to learn, grow, live and thrive in our community, which fully includes and embraces them as valued and contributing members.

**our programs** include early intervention, school, employment, residential and adult day.

**our values** are quality services, ethical practices, fiduciary integrity, diversity, respect, dignity and self-determination.

early intervention opportunities for children with developmental disabilities



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NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC



## early intervention program

NCC's Early Intervention Program ensures that infants, toddlers and young children achieve developmental milestones and are prepared for future educational endeavors. Our educational and therapeutic services provide children with every resource they need to overcome, or learn to compensate for, delays and developmental disabilities.

All children deserve a quality education in an environment that is welcoming, conducive to learning and supportive of children's growth and development. NCC employs a staff of highly qualified professionals. Teachers, teacher assistants, child psychologists, physical and occupational therapists, social workers, speech/language pathologists, nutritionists, physicians and nurses work as a team to provide comprehensive services. Psychiatrists, neurologists and other medical specialists are consulted as needed.

Each child works toward educational goals mapped out in an individualized service plan. This plan, developed and updated by a team of specialists and the child's family, is based on the child's individual abilities and

support needs. The children are regularly assessed so we can provide developmentally and age-appropriate activities.

At NCC, we believe that learning can be fun. Interventions are centered on exploratory play-based learning experiences. For example, dumping, stacking and building with blocks develops hand-eye coordination and pre-math skills. Finger painting provides tactile stimulation, inspires creativity and reinforces the identification of colors and shapes. Children are grouped into classrooms based on age and abilities. Therapeutic services are incorporated into children's daily routines and are often provided in the classroom or on the playground. Group activities promote social interaction, which facilitates the development of communication skills in young children.

Our low student-teacher ratios enable all children to receive special attention. Our children's families benefit from support groups, training activities and assistance in locating and accessing community resources. We also arrange transportation for children to attend our program.

Children in our Early Intervention Program benefit from the following services:

- Developmental screenings, assessments and service coordination
- IFSP and IEP development
- Individualized educational instruction and programming
- Low student-teacher ratios
- Occupational, physical and speech/language therapies
- Medical, nursing and nutrition services
- Developmentally appropriate, exploratory, play-based learning experiences
- Literacy-rich learning environment
- Opportunities for sensorimotor exploration
- Multidisciplinary team approach to education and therapeutic services
- Family-centered approach with parent supports
- Before and after-care
- Transportation for children to attend our program
- Wheelchair accessible facility and playground

Our Early Intervention Program provides educational and related services to more than 300 children, 8 weeks through 6 years old, who have or are at risk for developmental delays and disabilities. We also accept children without disabilities. Children with and without disabilities learn a great deal from one another. All children benefit from a supportive environment where their differences are unimportant when it comes to learning and making friends.

"Developmental disabilities" include mental retardation, autism, Down syndrome, learning disabilities, hearing and visual impairments, emotional disturbance, cerebral palsy and brain injuries.

Some children are born with developmental disabilities while others develop them as a result of illness, accident, abuse or neglect. Sometimes, the cause is never known.

At NCC, our services are tailored to the specific needs of each person. Many of the people we serve will require services throughout their lives, and our services are designed to meet their every need, each step of the way.

