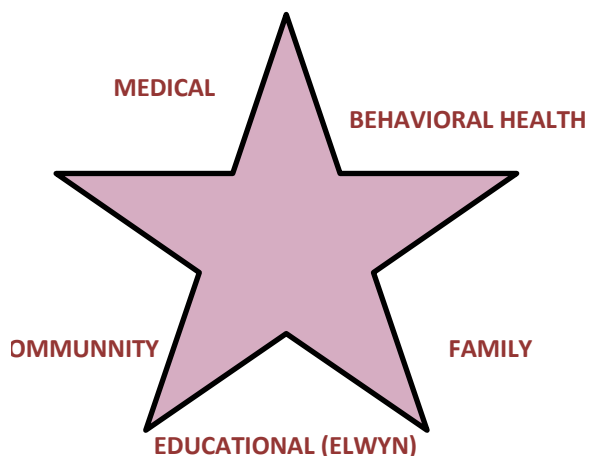


## GETTING HELP BEYOND ELWYN

There are many ways to meet your child's needs. Elwyn can help with your child's educational goals. Your child may need other specialists recommended by their pediatrician to support their medical health or services from Community Behavioral Health to help with challenging behavior. You may also want to apply for Medicaid based on your child's disability or look into wraparound services.

Children experiencing behavioral challenges may be eligible for preschool early intervention services, they may be eligible for behavioral health services or they may be eligible for both. Parents can contact Community Behavior Health (CBH) in Philadelphia at 215-685-5400.

Elwyn services start at age 3. If your child is under 3 years old please call 215-685-4646 for further assistance accessing early intervention services.



## HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS HELP?

Your child may benefit from an evaluation for early intervention supports if you have concerns about their:

- Speech
- Understanding of language
- Ability to walk or run
- Learning
- Finger or hand skills
- Interactions with others
- Ability to feed or dress themselves
- Current functioning in a preschool or daycare

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ELWYN'S FREE EARLY LEARNING SERVICES?

Children ages 3-5 who have a significant delay (-1.5 standard deviations below the mean or 25% delay) in one or more areas of development compared to other children the same age

### OR

Children who have a physical or mental disability as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

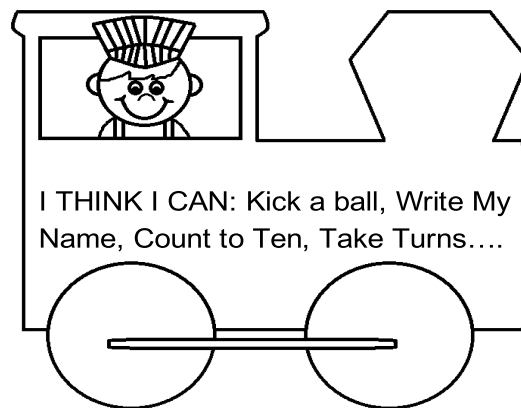
### AND

are in need of special education services.

**WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES DOES ELWYN OFFER?** ELWYN therapists & teachers provide speech therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, occupational therapy vision and hearing support and more.



## Early Learning Services (ELS)



**Intake Line: 215-222-8054**

Call our Intake line for a FREE evaluation to see if your child is eligible for FREE preschool early intervention services for eligible children ages 3 –5.

Office Hours M-F 8am-5pm

A GUIDE TO ELIGIBILITY AND PRESCHOOL EARLY INTERVENTION

*Elwyn Mission Statement: Through personal commitment, collective talent, and innovation, Elwyn supports individuals with diverse challenges in shaping distinctive meaningful lives. We will create an enduring mission to enrich the quality of life for individuals in our care.*

## HOW TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR PRESCHOOL

Philadelphia has free and affordable preschool programs regardless of family income

**Call the PHLpreK Hotline  
(844-745-7735)**

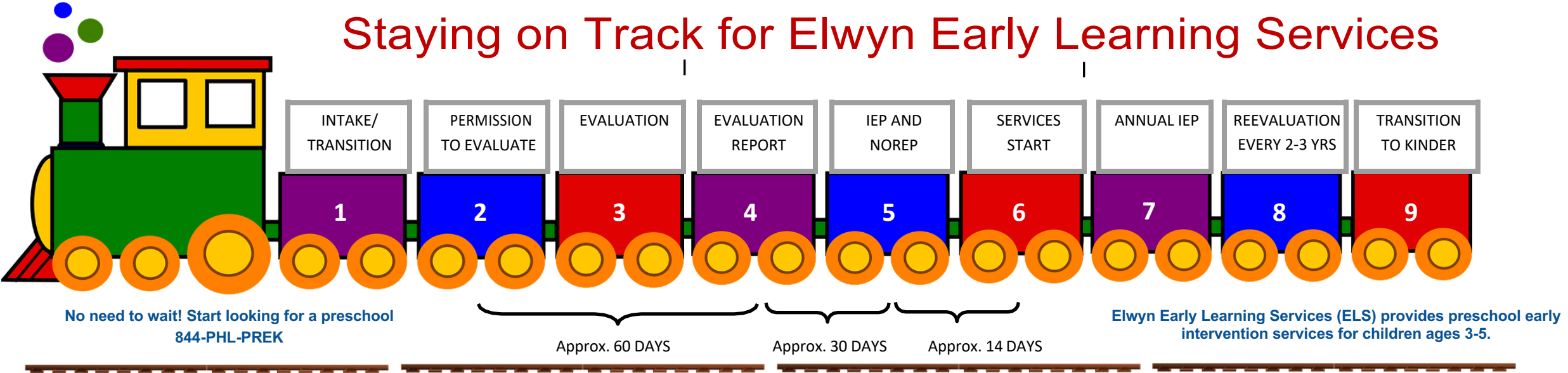
Depending on family income and available spots, your child could be eligible for Head Start, Bright Futures, PreK Counts, PHL PreK and/or Child Care Works. Your child must be 3 by Sept. 1 to be eligible for preschool.

## Myth Busters

**Myth:** Head Start won't enroll my child because my child is not potty-trained. **Fact:** Any preschool program relying on public funding must accept a child in diapers if that child has special needs documented by an Individualized Education Plan.

**Myth:** My child has a disability so they have to go to a special school. **Fact:** Most children receiving therapy from Elwyn go to typical preschools with extra support from Elwyn therapist.

# Staying on Track for Elwyn Early Learning Services



## READ BELOW FOR TIPS FOR EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS

**Step 1.** A family member, doctor, childcare provider, or another adult close to the child expresses a concern about the child’s development. This person calls the Elwyn intake line **215-222-8054**. Elwyn Intake staff are available to hear more about the family’s concerns and to schedule a multi-disciplinary evaluation.

**Step 2.** Elwyn will schedule a multi-disciplinary evaluation for the child to assess the need for early intervention services. Elwyn will send the family a form asking for written permission to evaluate their child. **The family must sign this form in order for Elwyn to be able to evaluate the child.**

**Step 3.** The child will be evaluated by a team of professionals with expertise in different areas of development. This evaluation will help Elwyn and the family to determine if the child is eligible for preschool early intervention services and, if eligible, to understand the types of services that would be appropriate to assist the child’s development. Family members are a big part of the evaluation process! Help the evaluation team get to know your child and bring relevant medical reports to the evaluation like vision or hearing tests or a medical diagnosis such as epilepsy or autism.

**Step 4.** After the evaluation occurs, an Evaluation Report will be sent to the family. The family will have a chance to review the report and communicate any questions or concerns they have to Elwyn. Some Evaluation Reports will say that the child does not qualify for special education services. The family may choose to pursue other services through the medical system or community behavioral health at this point.

**Step 5.** If eligible, the family will meet with their LEA Representative and other appropriate team members to create an Individualized Education Program or IEP. This is a comprehensive legal document that describes how your child is developing now and establishes goals for your child to work towards. It lists what types of therapies or services your child will receive, for example, speech therapy to work on talking or physical therapy to work on walking. Review this document and make sure you agree with the proposed educational plan. Once the team is in agreement, it is important to sign and return a special form called the Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP). **Without this signed form, your child’s therapies/services cannot begin. Keep your child’s IEP in a safe place along with your LEA Representative’s telephone number.**

**Step 6.** Two weeks after the IEP is complete individual therapists will call the family to set up times to start therapy. To start physical therapy, your child’s doctor will need to write a prescription for therapy.

Services typically occur at the child’s preschool. **Philadelphia has many affordable or free quality preschool options for families.** Your child’s LEA Representative & IEP team will also send home intermittent progress reports describing how much progress your child has made towards their goals.

**Step 7.** At least once a year the family and the child’s team will meet and discuss your child’s progress and create new goals to work towards.

**Step 8.** Every two years, children are reevaluated to outline and document their progress.

**Step 9.** Elwyn early intervention services are only for preschool-aged children. Elwyn will work with families to transition their child to school-aged services if and when necessary. There are trainings and outreach events available to families to learn more about their kindergarten options and the transition process.