



Behavior Support and Guidance

St. Martin Early Learning Center (ELC) is committed to providing a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where all children can learn, grow, and thrive. We believe that social-emotional development is an important part of early childhood education, and our staff work closely with children to help them develop self-regulation skills, positive relationships, problem-solving abilities, and appropriate ways to express their feelings and needs.

Through positive guidance, redirection, and developmentally appropriate practices, children are provided with opportunities to learn from their experiences and make positive choices. We encourage children to express their thoughts, feelings, needs, and opinions in a respectful and supportive learning environment.

When challenging behaviors arise, our first priority is to understand the child's needs and work collaboratively with families to develop strategies that support success in the classroom. Staff will implement individualized supports, communicate regularly with parents or guardians, and, when appropriate, seek assistance from community resources or specialists, such as the Intermediate Unit or Erie School District.

In rare circumstances, a child's behavior may significantly impact their ability to participate safely in the program or may present an ongoing risk to the well-being of themselves, other children, or staff. In these situations, temporary suspension or, as a last resort, expulsion from the program may be considered. Every reasonable effort will be made to support the child and family, implement interventions, and explore available resources before such action is taken.

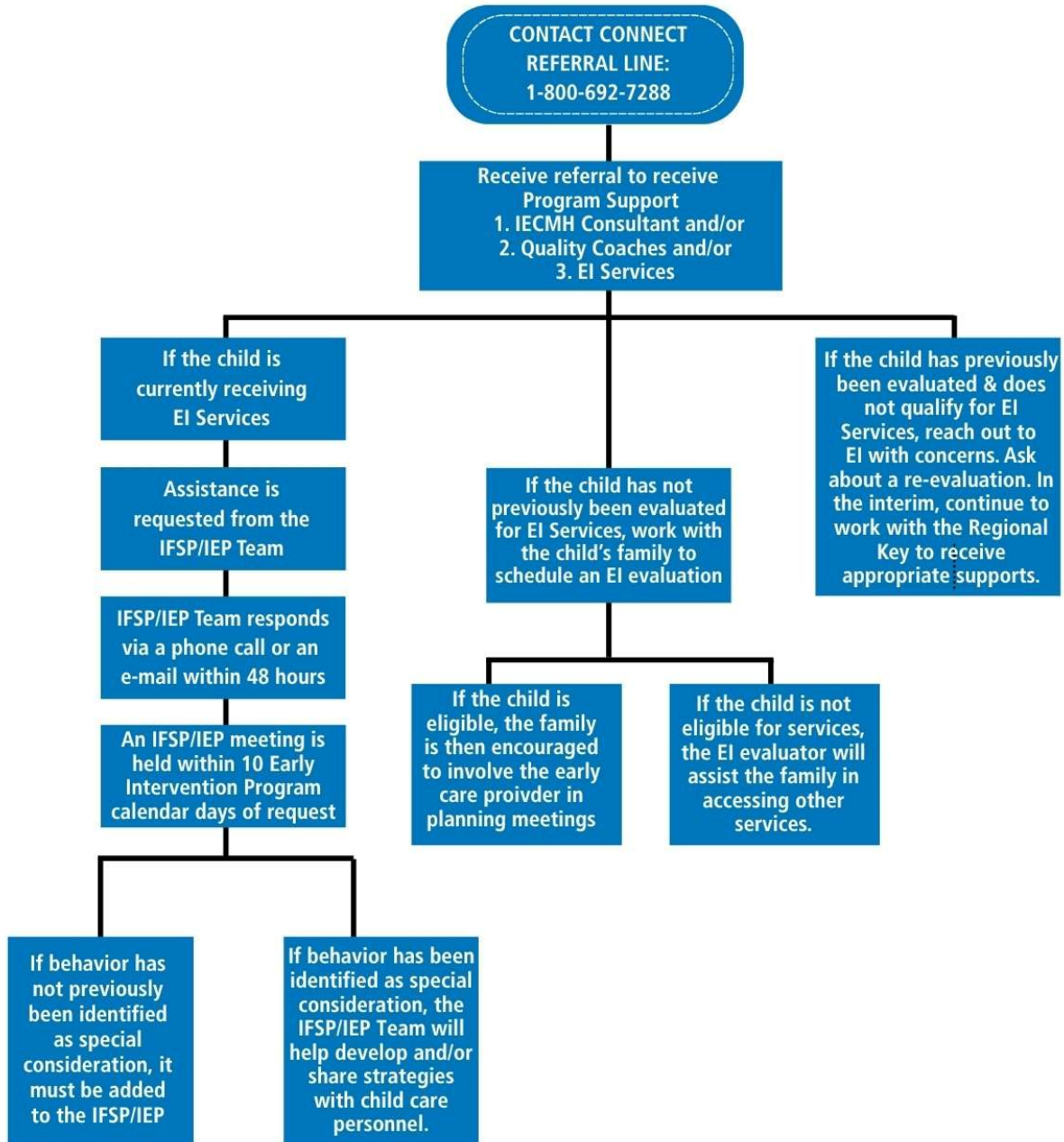
Our goal is always to partner with families to promote each child's success and continued development. The full Suspension/Expulsion policy is available upon request.

Challenging Behavior Resource Flowchart



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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE A CHILD WITH UNIQUE NEEDS/CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR?



¹If you have pre-existing or established relationship with your local EI Services provider or Regional Key, please contact them directly to receive program support.