

IV. EARLY START

The Early Start Program administration in Carroll County has been assigned to the Family and Children First Council. The Family and Children First Council and Carroll County Department of Human Services have elected to expand the PRC program to include the Early Start Program. The intent of the Early Start Program is to begin services at an early age to children at risk of becoming dependent on the juvenile court and welfare systems.

Our Early Start Program will include all children under the age of three (3) who are recipients of the following programs: 1) Ohio Works First; 2) Food Stamps; 3) any category of Medicaid; 4) Carroll County Department of Human Services day care; 5) Carroll County Department of Human Services Healthchek. There are no resource limitations. If there is a sanction (ie. JOBS, Child Support or Intentional Program Violation) associated with one of the aforementioned DHS programs, the application processing for Early Start will proceed without regard to the sanction.

The Early Start program has a separate application form from the existing PRC application. The application will be accepted and processed by the Early Start coordinator. Audit responsibility goes to the Carroll County Family and Children First Council. Early Start services include but are not limited to helping to meet needs such as : 1) housing needs; 2) transportation; 3) employment; 4) parent education and counseling; 5) referrals to community resources; and 6) transition to Pre-school programs. The Early Start program is voluntary and free to the participating family. There are no pay back or work-off provisions to the Early Start program.