



## The Groden Center Early Intervention Program

**Mission Statement:** *The mission of the Groden Center Early Intervention Program (EIP) is to provide families of children in the birth-to-three-year old age range who have developmental disabilities or a qualifying diagnosis such as autism, with appropriate services as specified in their Individual Family Service Plans (IFSPs). IFSP goals for children and families focus on enriching development, fostering appropriate communication skills and behavior, and promoting independence.*

**Program Description:** Infants and toddlers in the birth-to-three age range who are experiencing developmental delays, have certain diagnosed conditions, or who are at risk for significant learning or emotional problems receive early intervention services to facilitate their development. The Groden Center EIP is part of the Rhode Island network of Early Intervention providers certified by the RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). Early Intervention is a federal program defined in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Groden Center works with all eligible children and families. Eligibility is determined by either a qualifying diagnosis or documented developmental delay. Our team of professionals includes special educators, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, a physical therapist, nutritionist, and service coordinators who work closely with parents and caregivers to help them promote their child's development. Early Intervention services typically are provided in the child and family's natural environment and services are embedded within the family's daily routine. Early Intervention in RI utilizes a coaching model of service provision in which parents and caregivers work closely with therapists and service providers to meet the outcomes developed for the child. There is no direct cost to families for EI services in Rhode Island. The cost of the program is covered by private health insurance, Medicaid, and state and federal funds.

### Contact Info:

Groden Center Early Intervention Program  
610 Manton Ave.  
Providence, RI 02909  
Phone: 401-525-2380  
[www.grodencenter.org](http://www.grodencenter.org)

Supervisor: Carol LaFrance, M.Ed.  
Coordinator of Admissions, Interns & Volunteers:  
Peggy Stocker

**Internship opportunities:** Internships may be available at the Groden Center for students studying Psychology, Human Development and Family Studies, Speech and Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Early Childhood Education, Social Work or others with a strong background and interest in working in a family centered environment with children affected by Autism and other pervasive developmental disorders. Interns will have the opportunity to learn how Early Intervention services are administered.

Depending on the goals and skill level of an individual EI intern, experiences and responsibilities may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Adherence with all human resources requirements including reference checks, a criminal background check and any other required processes as needed.
- Shadowing of Groden Center EI staff on home visits.
- Participation in center-based play groups and/or parent groups
- Internships usually are 6-8 hours per week.
- Participation in developmental assessments and eligibility evaluations