

September 26, 2025

Important notice from the Department of Developmental Services about:

Providers of Speech and Language Services in Early Start

G-2025-Early Start-001

What to Know

This document explains that Speech-Language Pathologists in their Clinical Fellowship year (SLP-CF) can provide speech and language services under the following service codes:

- 116 (Specialized Therapeutic Services) or
- 805 (Infant Development Program).

Both SLP-CFs who hold a temporary Required Professional Experience (RPE) state license issued by the California Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board (Board) and licensed Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) meet the Title 17 regulations to provide services for infants and toddlers in the Early Start program.

There is a difference between what SLP-CFs and SLPAs can do while providing services. SLP-CFs can conduct evaluations, plan treatment, and provide direct services with clinical supervision. SLPAs cannot conduct evaluations and must work under direct supervision of a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. Recent changes in regulations now allow for this supervision to occur through electronic means.

What's Changing

The payment rates for SLP-CFs are adjusted to be similar to payment rates for Specialized Therapeutic Services Professionals under service code 116 and the Speech/Language Pathologist subcode under service code 805. They can be found in the revised document [D-2024-Rate Reform-003 Attachment C](#). This change is expected to help increase infants' and toddlers' access to timely and high-quality services.