

Early Intervention -An Introduction-



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Family and Professional Collaboration
October 7, 2010

What is Early Intervention?

- Services mandated by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for families of children with disabilities or developmental delays, ages birth to 3 years

EI and Federal Law

- **PL 99-457: Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments (1986)**
 - Services for preschool children AND
 - Services for infants and toddlers
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
 - **Part B** services for preschool age and up
 - **Part C** services for infants and toddlers
 - Emphasis on FAMILIES

Goals of Early Intervention Services

- **"to enhance the capacity of families to meet the special needs of their infants and toddlers with disabilities"** (Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-457, 100 Stat. 1145)
 - Enhance child development
 - Support parental caregiving

The Developmental Specialist

- Service provider of early intervention
- May also be called the following (varies by state)
 - Early interventionist
 - Early intervention specialist

Other professionals who may work with the family

- Speech and language pathologist
- Occupational therapist
- Physical therapist
- Infant mental health specialist
- Social worker

Video Clip

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-wOUyglDWU&feature=related>

Eligibility: How does a family get started in early intervention services?

- All referrals come through Help Me Grow (<http://www.ohiohelpmegrow.org/>)
- A HMG service coordinator is assigned to the family
- Service coordinator meets with family to gain consent for screening and services, & to discuss needs and concerns
- Service coordinator and the family discuss options for programming that will be most appropriate for the child and family
- Specific medical diagnosis that is known to cause developmental delays (e.g. Down Syndrome)
OR
- Service coordinator makes a referral for the child to be evaluated by the county board of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) (<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/>)
- If the child is determined eligible by having a delay in any one area of development, the referral is made to Early Intervention

Populations of children served in early intervention

- Global developmental delay
- Developmental delay in any area of development (e.g. language/communication)
- Specific diagnoses that cause a delay or disability
- Prematurity

Where are services provided?

- Home-based
- Center-based
- Community-based (e.g. child care center)

Intervention Planning

- Gathering information about the child and the family's resources, concerns, priorities, and needs
 - Child Information: (examples)
 - Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI)
 - Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP)
 - Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System (AEPS)
 - Family Information:
 - Routines-Based Interview (RBI)
- **Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**
 - A written plan mandated by PL 99-457
 - Contains outcomes for the child and family
 - Developed in collaboration with the family and the team

Intervention Strategies

- Guidelines for intervention planning:
 - Increase child's learning opportunities throughout the day and across different settings
 - Use the child's surroundings to facilitate learning: home, community settings
 - Focus on real-life, day to day, functional goals
 - Find out specific reinforcers that best support the child's learning; how does the child learn?
 - Focus on family needs and desired outcomes; use adult learning and coaching strategies to support caregivers in implementing natural learning opportunities

Other Services

- Transition planning at age 2 1/2
(Preparing for the transition to preschool)
 - Meetings with school district representatives to decide on preschool placement
 - Transition workshops for parents
 - in collaboration with other agencies (e.g. the Family Information Network of Ohio)

State Agencies/Local Early Intervention Programs

- Happy Day School (Portage County): <http://www.pcbmrdd.org/>
- Calico Center (Summit County):
http://www.summitdd.org/calico_center.aspx
 - Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities also provides EI through home visiting and other community-based services (e.g. EI visits to child care centers)
- Family Child Learning Center (Summit County):
<http://www.familychild.org/>
- Help Me Grow (service coordination agency for birth-3 services in Ohio): <http://www.ohiohelpmegrow.org/>
- Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (service provider agency for children and individuals with disabilities):
<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/>

Questions?

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