

Your Role In Early Intervention

Your role as a parent is a pivotal one in Early Intervention. You are the expert on your child, not us. Early Intervention is founded within the context of those who have knowledge of child development helping you build upon your knowledge of your child. This is done through lots of conversations about what you know of your child's and how things work for your family especially as it relates to your concerns and your child's needs as well as what is important to your family. We ask questions about routines and family activities to learn about your family and how your child functions within your family. By knowing what is important to your family, we can then share ideas of how to improve or expand upon activities and routines already in existence; sometimes we may suggest new activities or routines to you that may help your child's newly developing skills that respect your family.

We function as a team. Decisions about what type of services will most benefit your child and family as well as how often those services are delivered is a team decision. We may decide as a team on a different course of action than what another professional has told you your child needs because we're considering what is important to you, the strengths and needs and your day to day life. You have the right to accept or decline any or all proposed services that the team (which includes you) decides may benefit your child and family.

Progress monitoring information will be used to guide the team in making decisions regarding services and whether any changes are needed. No changes will be made in services without review of progress monitoring information which must show that a change is needed.

We expect that you will actively participate during visits. This includes updating us on what you've seen or heard your child do since the last visit but also to be a part of what is happening during that visit. If we don't ask you, ask us! Visits are scheduled jointly between you and the service provider. While we try to accommodate the needs of your schedule, there may be times when the service provider has limited availability in their schedule.

The success of early intervention services is contingent upon you, your family and the degree of involvement you have. It is **expected** that the ideas we offer will be incorporated by you into the activities and routines that you have established for your family (We show you how to do so). **By including the ideas into everyday life, you are providing your child with many opportunities to work on newly developing skills as well as continuing to improve on skills already in existence rather than just during the time that an early intervention staff person is in your home.**