

“Now What?” Resources for Parents of Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities

Panel Moderator:

- ▶ Susan Campbell - IDEA Part C Coordinator, Delaware Health & Social Services, Birth to Three Early Intervention System

Speakers:

- ▶ Michelle Blankenship - MS, CCC-SLP, Speech-Language Pathologist, Director of Outpatient Therapy Services, Easterseals
- ▶ Fiona KL Vivar - MS Ed., Field Agent, Delaware Department of Education, Liaison to Child Development Watch, New Castle County
- ▶ Sarah Milner - Parent Educator, Parents as Teachers, Parent of a child with special needs

Key Principles of Early Intervention



- ❖ Infants and Toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts.
- ❖ All families with the necessary supports and resources can enhance their children's learning and development.
- ❖ The primary role of a service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives.
- ❖ The early intervention process, from initial contacts through transition, must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child's and family members' preferences, learning styles and cultural beliefs.

Key Principles of Early Intervention (con't)



- ❖ IFSP outcomes must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities.
- ❖ The family's priorities, needs and interests are addressed most appropriately by a primary provider who represents and receives team and community support.
- ❖ Interventions with young children and family members must be based on explicit principles, validated practices, best available research, and relevant laws and regulations.

▶ Early Intervention in Delaware

▶ Service Coordination

▶ 5 Domain Evaluation

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Social/ Emotional
- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Adaptive
- ▶ Cognitive



▶ Your IFSP is in place, now let's get your Team in Place!

▶ IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan)

▶ Evaluation and goal development

- ▶ Annual and Six Month Reviews
- ▶ Services in Natural Environment



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Birth to 3 Early Intervention System



• WHO MIGHT BE ON MY TEAM?

- YOU
- Family Service Coordinator
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Early Childhood Educators
- Speech Language Pathologists



• HOW DO SESSIONS LOOK?

- Service Delivery Models and Frequencies
- “Natural Environment”
- All the intervention with the child occurs between specialist visits
- Communication with team
- Parent / Caregiver role / participation




• TRANSITION

- Potential Preschool Services
- Birth Mandates



Parents as Teachers

Nemours Children's Health System



Can my child receive services at daycare or at a babysitter's house?

What if my child does not qualify and I still have concerns....

How will my child's progress be reported?

How do I support my child through the process?

Family Resources:



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Delaware
Department of Education



Parents as Teachers



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