

## **IV. Catchment Area**

### **A. Local Catchment Area**

An Early Intervention program serves all cities and towns within its catchment area as approved by the Department of Public Health. If more than one EI program shares a catchment area or a family is referred to an EI program outside the catchment area of the family's residence, upon referral to a program, parents are notified of the names of the other programs serving that catchment area and have the opportunity to talk with the other programs before having an eligibility evaluation. At the initial visit each family will be provided information about the *Massachusetts Early Intervention Program Guide* which contains the statewide listings of all Early Intervention programs.

### **B. Options**

Parents are made aware that they may only enroll in one Early Intervention program. Once the family makes the choice, the program has 45 days to evaluate the child, determine eligibility and hold a meeting to discuss the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Parents are also informed that investigating other programs may prolong the time it takes to complete the IFSP process. This discussion is documented in the intake file.

### **C. Out of Catchment Services**

Programs are responsible for providing individualized services to families as outlined in the IFSP. Occasionally this means that services may be provided outside of the catchment area in which the family resides.

The DPH Regional Early Intervention Specialist must be notified in writing of families not residing in the program's catchment area being served by the program.