

VIII. Early Intervention Services

- A. Children and families receive individualized services, in accordance with the functional outcomes identified in the IFSP. A range of options, including home visits, center-based individual visits, community child groups, EI-only child groups (These child groups may include parents), parent groups and services of specialty providers is available to all families. Intervention is designed to include the child, staff member(s) and parent or designated caregiver. The parent is encouraged to participate in services. If family circumstances preclude such participation, this is documented in the child's record and alternative communication strategies developed.

- B. Services are available on a twelve-month basis. Any scheduled interruptions of any IFSP service for more than three (3) consecutive weeks are discussed and approved by the family, and documented on the appropriate pages of the Individualized Family Service Plan. (Please refer to the definition of Timely Services, Section II of these standards regarding the designation of services.) Varying family needs and cultural differences are respected in the provision of Early Intervention services, and programs are responsive to family schedules.

- C. Services are provided in the natural settings for the child, as determined through the IFSP process. Natural settings may include the child's home, childcare centers, family childcare homes, and other community settings.

- D. The service coordinator is determined during the IFSP process. Functions of the service coordinator include the following:
 - 1. Identify and negotiate service coordination functions with the family
 - 2. Explain the IFSP process including due process and procedural safeguards
 - 3. Facilitate and participate in the development, review and evaluation of the IFSP

4. Collaborate with the family in identifying their strengths, concerns, priorities and resources
5. Facilitate the timely delivery of services
6. Coordinate and monitor eligibility evaluations, ongoing assessments by qualified personnel, and service delivery
7. Provide information on parenting and community resources
8. Educate and/or support the family in advocating for their rights and needs
9. Inform the family of the availability of advocacy services
10. Coordinate services with medical and health providers, with written parental consent
11. Provide information and make referrals to other case management systems as appropriate and with written parental consent
12. Facilitate the development of a transition plan
13. Make recommendations and referrals to meet the individual needs of the child and family as appropriate and with written parental consent.