

**\*\*\*\* Parental Guidelines to Family Centered Early Intervention Services \*\*\*\***



**Early intervention services are unique in that they are centered on the family dynamic. Infants are so young and much of how they develop language is built around their family. Below you will find key information and ideas to consider when utilizing Early Intervention Services for you infant or toddler who are at risk for a communication disorder or impairment.**

**\*\*\*\* Consider your family's values, priorities, interests and hobbies. In other words, what key things shape your family's everyday life? Think about the things that are important for your infant or toddler to learn. Early intervention is about what is important for the family. Goals and objectives are decided based on the family's priorities and goals for the child.**

1. What events, items/objects, or places are apart of you your family's everyday life?
2. Based on your family's' priorities, values, and interests, what are your communication goals for your infant or toddler at risk for a communication disorder or impairment (ex. pointing, saying one word, using gestures or signing, touching objects desired, responding to name being called, responding when given a command)? What is important for them to do for you and your family to communicate better with them and them with you?
3. What is your infant or toddler not doing that makes communication with them difficult?
4. Who are the key family members that directly impact your infant or toddler's communication?
5. What resources can be provided to you by the Early Interventionist or Clinician that can make you and your family feel more comfortable understanding speech and language development?

**\*\*\*\* Consider your family's daily routine. This is important because the family's daily routine is where the infant or toddler learns communication skills. It is also the area where intervention is embedded so that communication skills are targeted naturally and in a setting where it can generalize and get better over time.**

6. Which part of the family's daily routine causes communication break down or frustration between the infant or toddler and the family? Which part of the daily routine would you and your family like to see better communication with the infant or toddler (breakfast, play time, dinner, and family time)?
7. In what natural environment setting does your family want early intervention services to occur (home, grandparent's home, day care center, early education program)?
8. Are you willing or have the time to implement communication strategies as modeled to you by the clinician in you and your child's daily routine? What are some things the clinician would need to know about you, your family, the infant or toddler, and your family's values, and daily routine in order to recommend goals or communication strategies that would be easy for you and your family to follow through on?

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**\*\*\*\*Consider that Early Intervention Services are two fold and must be done in steps and with patience. The family and the clinician must work together to see progress. Both parties must be equally willing to listen, learn, discuss, and participate. When there is imbalance on either the side the child suffers. Communication between both parties must be open, ongoing, respectful, and honest.**

9. What are the characteristics you seek in a professional that will be working with you and your family and coming into your home? What key things do they need to know about you?  
What key things do you want to know about them?

10. What and how much personal information are you willing to tell that will result in your infant or toddler receiving effective services?

11. What key things does the therapist or clinician need to know about your religion, culture, or family dynamic that will allow for them to be respectful and unbiased throughout your interactions with them?

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**Answer Sheet**

Use this sheet to write down answers to the questions on the previous pages. This will help you with your initial IFSP meeting or evaluation.

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**Answer Sheet**

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**Extra Comments:**

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