



# Early Intervention



## Resources for Families with Young Children

Families who receive services through the Illinois Early Intervention Program may be interested in other programs for families and young children. If you would like to learn more about parent support groups, local organizations, or community services, we recommend that you check out the following resources.

### IllinoisParents.org

The IllinoisParents Web site can help parents find information about state and local organizations related to early childhood and special education. The “Illinois Organizations and Events” section of the Web site allows you to search for libraries, services, support groups, and agencies. You can use the IllinoisParents calendar to find nearby conferences and workshops. IllinoisParents also provides resources for parents of children of all ages, so you can use this site for many years!

For more information about statewide resources, contact the Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse. Call 877-275-3227 or send email to [Illinois-eic@illinois.edu](mailto:Illinois-eic@illinois.edu).

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Resources for Families with Young Children	1
.....	
Do You Have an Early Head Start Program in Your Community?	2
.....	
Director’s Corner	2
.....	
Resources on Talking with Professionals	3
.....	
Illinois Calendar	4
.....	

### Family Resource Center on Disabilities and Family Matters

Illinois has two parent training and information centers that are federally funded. The Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD—<http://www.frcd.org/>) serves the Chicago area, and the Family Matters Parent Training & Information Center (FMPTIC—<http://www.fmptic.org/>) serves the rest of the state. Both organizations have full-time staff, including experienced parents of children or young adults with special needs. Both organizations are great resources for parents who may need help navigating the special education system when their child transitions out of EI services. They provide information, support, and advocacy services for parents and teachers. Staff members will answer questions, identify resources in your area, and conduct training sessions. If you need legal advice or want an advocate at your child’s IEP meetings at or after age 3, you can ask for help from these centers.

## Do You Have an Early Head Start Program in Your Community?

Early Head Start (EHS) is a program for families with infants and toddlers. It is also for pregnant women in families with incomes at or below the poverty level. EHS's mission is to support (1) the health of newborns and their moms, (2) the growth and development of young children, and (3) family well-being. EHS also serves some infants and toddlers with disabilities.

### What does Early Head Start do?

EHS provides home visits or a center-based program, or both, for very young children. EHS staff members focus on child development and family development. They also help you find community resources. Child development services may include

- home visits, especially for families with newborns;
- parent and child activities;
- health and mental health services; and
- high-quality child care services.

Family development services may include

- child development information and parent education;
- comprehensive health services, including helping family members stop smoking and treating substance abuse;



- adult education, literacy, and job skills training;
- assistance in obtaining income support, safe housing, or emergency cash; and
- transportation to program services.

### Are you eligible for Early Head Start services?

You can apply for EHS services if your family has an income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level. (The poverty level is an income of \$22,000 or less for a family of four). You can also apply if you have a very young child with a disability.

### How can you find local Early Head Start Services?

Not all communities have an Early Head Start program. You can find out if your community has one by calling your Child and Family Connections Office or by calling the Illinois Head Start Association at 217-241-3511.

## Director's Corner

Life as a parent or family member is often about sharing—time, resources, information, hopes, and dreams. Sharing is a two-way street. So we wrote this newsletter to let you know about places in Illinois that share resources with families. Your community may have an Early Head Start program. If so, it could be a wonderful resource for you and your baby. We know that babies become toddlers and move on to preschool and into the education world. As they grow, a family's needs may change. We are lucky to have groups in Illinois that support families and children with developmental delays from birth to adulthood.

We also thought you might like a list of conversation starters to use with your service providers. These questions will work today and in the future when you meet teachers, counselors, and others. As a parent, I know that talking to professionals about my child's strengths and needs was really important and that I often had to start the conversation. We've listed some of the best resources in our library to help you start these conversations. We know that family members are critical to any team. We're the ones who spend a lifetime with our children. We provide the continuity and advocacy and information sharing over the life span. So we're the ones who have to speak up, ask questions, and share stories. Best wishes as you explore these resources and share your views about your child and family.

Susan Fowler

# Talking with Your EI Service Providers



Parents and service providers want what's best for children in the Illinois Early Intervention (EI) Program. Talking to each other openly can help reach that goal. Providers need to know about the child's routines, communication strengths, and how the child learns. Parents need to know about services and how they will be involved. They may have questions about home visits, types of services, or their child's development.

## Here are some things that providers need to know about you and your child:

- What are his strengths? Is he usually cooperative? Does he enjoy meeting people?
- What concerns you about your child? Is her speech delayed? Does she have tantrums?
- How do your child and you like to learn? Are there activities you can practice with her to promote her development?
- What would you like your child to learn in the next 6-12 months?
- Are there things you would like to learn?
- What is your child's normal routine?

## Here are some typical questions that you may want to ask your service providers:

- How can you help me get just the services I want for my child? Be sure you understand your rights in choosing services now and how services can be changed later. Discuss the benefits you can expect for your child and family.
- What is the best way to stay in touch with you? Ask for contact information in case you need to make or cancel an appointment. Find out who you should call if you cannot reach the provider.
- What is my role during a home visit or related services? Ask about ways to care for your baby and ask for time to practice while your provider is there. Discuss making time to talk about your child's problems or successes.
- Will the information I provide be kept confidential?
- What are good resources in my community to help me between services or visits?

## Talk together about EI information and meetings:

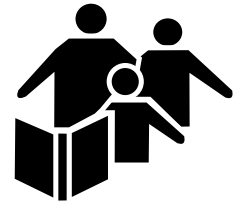
- How can I organize all the papers and information I get?
- When is our next Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting? How can I prepare for it?
- Who can I bring to the meeting?
- How can I find other parents with the same concerns I have?

 For more information on talking with early intervention professionals, see the Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse Web site at <http://eicclearinghouse.org>.

Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Illinois Department of Human Services, Bureau of Early Intervention.



# La comunicación con sus proveedores de servicios de E.I.



Los padres de familia y los proveedores de servicios quieren lo mejor para los niños que participan en el programa de Intervención Temprana de Illinois (E.I., siglas en inglés). La comunicación abierta entre ellos puede alcanzar esta meta. Los proveedores necesitan conocer las rutinas del niño y saber cómo se comunica mejor y cómo aprende. Los padres necesitan conocer los servicios y saber cómo participar. Tal vez tengan preguntas sobre las visitas a casa, los tipos de servicios o el desarrollo de su hijo.

## He aquí algunas cosas que los proveedores necesitan saber en cuanto a usted y su hijo:


- ¿Cuáles son los talentos del niño? ¿Coopera usualmente con los adultos? ¿Le gusta conocer a personas nuevas?
- ¿Qué le preocupa a usted en cuanto a su hijo? ¿Tiene el niño un retraso del habla? ¿Tiene muchos berrinches?
- ¿De qué manera les gusta aprender a usted y a su hijo? ¿Hay actividades que usted puede practicar con el niño para fomentar su desarrollo?
- ¿Qué quiere usted que su hijo aprenda en los próximos 6 ó 12 meses?
- ¿Hay cosas que usted quiere aprender?
- ¿Cuál es la rutina normal de su hijo?

## He aquí algunas preguntas típicas que usted tal vez quiera hacer a sus proveedores:

- ¿Cómo puede usted ayudarme a tener los servicios que quiero para mi hijo? Es importante que usted entienda sus derechos de escoger servicios ahora y los cambios que pueden hacerse más tarde. Converse con sus proveedores sobre los beneficios que usted puede esperar para su hijo y su familia.
- ¿Cuál es la mejor manera de contactarlo? Pídale su información de contacto por si acaso usted necesite hacer o cancelar una cita. Averigüe a quién debe llamar si no puede contactar al proveedor.
- ¿Qué se espera que yo haga durante una visita a mi casa o servicios similares? Pregunte sobre maneras de cuidar a su bebé y pida tiempo para practicar los consejos recibidos mientras su proveedor está presente. Converse sobre maneras de apartar tiempo para hablar más sobre los problemas o los éxitos de su hijo.
- ¿Se mantendrá confidencial la información que yo doy?
- ¿Cuáles son algunos buenos recursos en mi comunidad donde puedo encontrar ayuda entre las visitas o los servicios?

## Conversen sobre la información y las reuniones de E.I.:

- ¿Cómo puedo organizar todos los papeles y la información que me dan?
- ¿Cuándo va a ser nuestra próxima reunión sobre el IFSP (Plan de Servicios Individualizados para la Familia)? ¿Cómo puedo prepararme para la reunión?
- ¿A quiénes puedo llevar conmigo a la reunión?
- ¿Cómo puedo conocer a otros padres que tienen las mismas preocupaciones que yo?

 Para más información sobre la comunicación con profesionales de intervención temprana, visite el sitio de Internet del Centro de Información sobre la Intervención Temprana de Illinois (Early Intervention Clearinghouse) en <http://eiclearinghouse.org>.

Los hallazgos, opiniones, conclusiones y recomendaciones expresados en esta publicación son los del (de los) autor(es) y no necesariamente reflejan los puntos de vista de la Oficina de Intervención Temprana del Departamento de Servicios Humanos de Illinois.



# Talking with Professionals

The following books, articles, and videos are available from the Early Intervention Clearinghouse. Request them through your local public library, email us through the Clearinghouse Web site at <http://eiclearinghouse.org>, or call us at 877-275-3227. Visit our Web site to find more resources on talking with professionals.

## Books

*The Early Intervention Guidebook for Families and Professionals: Partnering for Success.* Bonnie Keilty. New York: Teachers College Press, 2010. (Call # WS 350.6 K27e 2010).

Keilty explains what early intervention looks like and how families can best partner with professionals so that young children can learn, grow, and thrive.

*Team Up for Your Child: A Step-by-Step Guide to Working Smarter with Doctors, Schools, Insurers, and Agencies.* Wendy Lowe Besmann. Oak Ridge, TN: Melton Hill Media, 2008. (Call # WS 107.5 .R5 .B555 2008).

This book provides guides, advice, worksheets, and checklists on how to work with the professionals involved in a child's services from early intervention through special education.

*Family-Based Practices (Young Exceptional Children Monograph Series No. 5).* Eva Horn, Michaelene M. Ostrosky, & Hazel Jones (Eds.). Missoula, MT: DEC, 2004. (Call # LC 4019.3 .F198h 2004).

This book contains articles highlighting different aspects of family-based practices and how they can enhance early intervention and early childhood special education.

## Videos

*Successfully Parenting Your Baby with Special Needs.* 50-minute

DVD. Edvantage Media, 1999. (Call # HQ 759.913 .S833 1999)

This video provides a comprehensive, easy-to-follow introduction to early intervention services, including how parents can best communicate with professionals on how to meet the needs of their young child.



*Early Interactions: Parent-Professional Perspectives in Early Intervention.* 45-minute DVD. Brookes, 2007. (Call # WS 107.5 .R5 .E12 2007)

This video re-creates home visits to demonstrate how various professionals interact with parents and with each other in assessing and providing services for young children with developmental delays.

## Articles

*Moving from Assessment Information to IFSPs: Guidelines for a Family-Centered Process.* Lee Ann Jung & Jennifer Grisham-Brown. (2006). *Young Exceptional Children*, 9(2), 2–11.

This article guides parents through the process of assessment and creation of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and discusses the importance of communication with service coordinators and professionals during the process.

*Early Intervention Matters, Part 4: The Role and Responsibility of the Service Coordinator in Early Intervention.* Susan Addison. (2004). *Exceptional Parent*, 34(2), 38–40.

This article explains the role of service coordinators and discusses how they can facilitate communication between parents and professionals.

## Web Resources

*Beach Center on Disabilities Family-Professional Partnership Resource Page*

This resource page from the Beach Center on Disability at the University of Kansas contains articles, book titles, a self-assessment guide, and more on the topic of family-centered services and communicating with professionals.

[http://www.beachcenter.org/families/partnerships/family-professional\\_partnerships.aspx](http://www.beachcenter.org/families/partnerships/family-professional_partnerships.aspx)

*Project TaCTICS: Module 4—Involving Careproviders in Teaching/Learning*

Therapists as Collaborative Team members for Infants/Toddler Community Services (TaCTICS) is an outreach training program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The organization has created this module on family participation and parent-professional communication, one in a series.

<http://tactics.fsu.edu/modules/modFour.html>

## Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse

Early Childhood & Parenting Collaborative  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Children's Research Center  
51 Gerty Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820-7469

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 75  
Champaign, IL 61820

## Illinois Calendar

**November 18, 2011**

**Chicago**

*Working with Children on the Asperger's/Autism Spectrum*

Contact: STARNET Region V, <http://starnetchicago.org>,  
Phone: 773-553-5596

**December 1, 2011**

**Malta**

*Transitioning Children from Early Intervention to Early Childhood*

Contact: STARNET Region I & III, <http://starnet.org>,  
Phone: 800-227-7537

**December 2, 2011**

**Chicago**

*Power Struggles and Temper Tantrums*

Contact: STARNET Region V, <http://starnetchicago.org>,  
Phone: 773-553-5596

## Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse

Early Childhood & Parenting Collaborative  
College of Education  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Children's Research Center  
51 Gerty Drive  
Champaign, IL 61820-7469  
Phone: 877-275-3227 (in Illinois)

Director: Susan Fowler  
Editor: Dianne Rothenberg  
Contributor: Logan Moore

Opinions expressed in *Early Intervention* are the responsibility of the author and are not necessarily those of the Illinois Department of Human Services or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Early Intervention (ISSN 1058-8396) is published quarterly.