

INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP)

The Individualized Family Service Plan, or IFSP, is used for determining early intervention goals and services for an eligible child with a developmental delay or considered at risk for a delay due to a diagnosed condition for ages birth through 2 years. The IFSP is a document that identifies the child's and family's strengths and needs, sets goals (for both the child and family members) and determines the steps that will be taken to achieve these goals. The guiding principle of the IFSP is that the family is the child's greatest resource and should be included in all stages of the plan.

A multidisciplinary team, which includes the parents, shall develop an Individualized Family Service Plan following the determination of eligibility, for each child and family. The IFSP must be developed within 45 calendar days of receipt of a referral.¹ The plan must be based on the multidisciplinary evaluation and assessment of the child and the priorities/concerns identified by the child's family. The plan must also identify supports and services necessary to facilitate the child's development and increase the family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of the child.² The IFSP must be implemented within 30 calendar days after its completion and parents are in agreement with the plan.

The IFSP must be reviewed at six month intervals, or more often if appropriate, and reevaluated/revised once a year. Revisions in the content of the IFSP can only be made by the IFSP team.¹

IMPORTANT TERMS AND FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Natural Environments:

Early Intervention Services must be provided to the maximum extent appropriate in natural environments.³

Natural environment is defined as "home and community settings in which infants and toddlers without disabilities would participate",

The IFSP must contain a statement of the type(s) of natural environment(s) in which early intervention services shall be appropriately provided. A justification when which services shall not be provided in a natural environment must be included in the IFSP.⁴

The location selected for early intervention services should be one that maximizes the child's and parents' opportunities to use daily routines, materials and people common to the family and child.⁵

Participants at the IFSP⁶

Participants in each initial and each annual meeting to update the IFSP must include at a minimum the following participants:

- The parent or guardian of the child;
- Service Coordinator;
- Person or persons directly involved in conducting the evaluations and assessments. If such person is unable to attend the meeting, arrangements must be made for the person's involvement through other means;
- Other individuals as requested by the Parent if feasible to do so;
- An advocate or person outside the family, if the parent requests that the person participate; and
- As appropriate, persons who will be providing services to the child or family, or who are qualified to do so.

IMPORTANT TERMS AND FACTS

IFSP Content⁷

The IFSP shall be in writing and contain a statement of the infant's or toddler's:

- Present levels of physical, cognitive, communication, social or emotional, and adaptive development;
- A statement of the family's resources, priorities, and concerns;
- A statement of the motor outcomes expected; and
- A statement of specific early intervention services necessary to meet the unique needs of the infant or toddler and the family, including the frequency, intensity, and method of delivering services.

Assistive Technology⁵

Assistive technology device means any item, piece of equipment or product system, (whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized), that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities

Parent counseling and training

Parent counseling and training means assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child; providing parents with information about child development; and helping parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IFSP.

Early Intervention Services⁸

- Family training, counseling and home visits;
- Special instruction;
- Speech-language pathology and audiology services;
- Occupational therapy;
- Physical therapy;
- Psychological services;
- Service coordination services;
- Medical services only for diagnostic or evaluation services;
- Early identification, screening, and assessment services;
- Health services necessary to enable the child to benefit from other early intervention services;
- Social work services;
- Vision services;
- Assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and
- Transportation and related costs that are necessary to enable an infant or toddler and the infant's or toddler's family to receive another service described above.

¹State of NV, Early Intervention Policy Document, Sec. 7, page 1

²IDEA '97 §636(a)(2)

³IDEA '97 §636(4)(6)

⁴State of NV, Early Intervention Policy Document, Sec. 7, page 3

⁵State of NV, Early Intervention Policy Document, Sec. 8, page 1

⁶State of NV, Early Intervention Policy Document, Sec. 7, page 2

⁷IDEA '97 §636(a)(3)(d)

⁸IDEA '97 §636(4)(E)