

Chapter 1: Mission, Purpose and Key Principles of Part C Early Intervention

Mission:

Part C early intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.

Purpose:

1. To enable young children to be active and successful participants during the early childhood years and in the future in a variety of settings – in their homes with their families; in child care, preschool or school programs; and in the community.
2. To enable families to provide care for their child and have the resources they need to participate in their own desired family and community activities.

Key Principles:

1. Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts.
2. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.
3. The primary role of a service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives.
4. The early intervention process, from initial contacts through transition, must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child's and family members' preferences, learning styles and cultural beliefs.
5. IFSP outcomes must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities.
6. The family's priorities, needs and interests are addressed most appropriately by a primary provider who represents and receives team and community support.
7. Interventions with young children and family members must be based on explicit principles, validated practices, best available research, and relevant laws and regulations.

Source: Work Group on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments, OSEP TA Community of Practice: Part C Settings. (2007). Agreed upon mission and key principles for providing early intervention services in natural environments.