

# 7 Keys to Success in Early Intervention

## Parents and Professionals Working Together to Help Children Develop and Learn

Research shows the first three years of a child's life are the most important years for learning. Every family wants their child to grow and learn to their fullest potential. Some children who have developmental delays or disabilities and their families may want support in understanding their child's unique development. One way this support is provided is through early intervention.

### Purpose for Children

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.

### MISSION

The Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia 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 for Families

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.

Assist the family to understand how their toys and materials can be used or adapted.

### Everyday Learning Opportunities

Children develop and learn through relationships with their families and through repeated experiences during home and community activities.

### Parents are Their Child's Best Teacher

The consistent adults in a child's life have the greatest influence on learning and development-not EI providers.

### Families and Providers Work as Partners

Mutual trust, respect, honesty and open communication characterize the family-provider relationship.

Collaboratively tailor services to fit each family in flexible ways that are responsive to each family's cultural, ethnic, racial, language, socioeconomic characteristics and preferences.

### Child and Family Needs, Interests and Skills Change

Families are the ultimate decision makers in the amount, type of assistance and the support they receive.

### IFSP Outcomes are Meaningful

Functional outcomes improve participation in day to day activities and keep the team focused on what's meaningful to the family.

### Coaching

Providers coach families in ways to help their child by demonstrating activities that can be carried out in their daily routines.

### Evidenced Based Practices

Interventions with young children and families are based on and consistent with current research.

The primary provider brings in other services and supports as needed, assuring outcomes, activities and advice are compatible with family life and won't overwhelm or confuse family members.

Outcomes build on a child's motivations to learn and enhance learning opportunities and enjoyment.

Practices and strategies for each child and family are based on continuous assessment data and evaluation for success.

The team can include friends, relatives, and community support people, as well as specialized service providers.



Match outcomes and strategies to the families' priorities, needs and interests, building on the routines and activities they want and need to do.