

INDIVIDUALIZED PART C EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORTS AND SERVICES IN EVERYDAY ROUTINES, ACTIVITIES AND PLACES

Executive Summary

The service delivery considerations and underlying philosophy outlined in this document are intended to provide the basis for a consistent, family-centered, evidence-based and effective approach to Part C early intervention across Virginia. This approach builds upon the best of what is already happening in Virginia's Part C early intervention system and is characterized by the following key concepts:

- Part C supports and services focus on increasing the child's participation in family and community activities identified by the family and expanding the parent's and other caregivers' confidence and competence to identify opportunities to help the child learn during everyday activities.
- Parents teach their children everyday – they are the primary agents of change in their child's development. Effective Part C early intervention requires an active parent-provider partnership that includes involvement by the family and other caregivers in each early intervention session.
- Outcomes identified by the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team are individualized, contextualized, functional and discipline-free (i.e., outcomes are relevant for the family, focus on the child's participation in activity settings that are important to the family, and focus on the whole child rather than specific developmental skills).
- Supports and services are based on the outcomes identified by the IFSP team and occur in the context of and are integrated into the daily activities, routines and environments of each child and family. Supports and services fit into the family's life and build effectively on the resources and supports already in place.
- Accommodations, adaptations, coaching with parents/caregivers, and expanding activity settings are important mechanisms for accomplishing outcomes.
- In most cases, one primary service provider working in partnership with the family is appropriate to address the IFSP outcomes. The match between the IFSP outcomes and strategies and the ability of the provider to support and assist the family in accomplishing those outcomes is the most important consideration in choosing a Part C provider to partner with that family. Other team members support the primary provider and the child and family by providing consultation to the primary provider, participating in joint visits with the primary provider to the child and family, and/or suggesting strategies and techniques to enhance progress toward outcomes.
- Since the majority of the child's learning occurs during everyday activities (between service provider visits), the appropriate frequency of Part C supports and services is based on how often the family needs support to be comfortable in using intervention strategies. Supports and services are provided at a frequency that matches the family's and other caregivers' need for timely, additional guidance at each visit.
- Since Part C early intervention supports and services are determined and provided on an individualized basis, a review of IFSPs in a given locality would reflect a variety of service frequencies, natural service settings and disciplines providing supports and services for the children and families in that locality.