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Families are Important!

An Early Childhood Workshop for Families of Young Children with Developmental Delays and/or Disabilities

*PACER Center, Inc.
Funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education*

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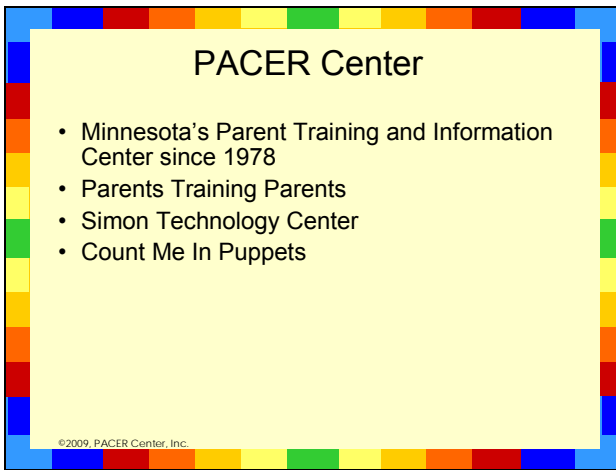


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PACER Center

- Minnesota's Parent Training and Information Center since 1978
- Parents Training Parents
- Simon Technology Center
- Count Me In Puppets

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You are Important!!


You are the most important people in your child's life
You know your child better than anyone else
You share your child's joys and challenges



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- **Purpose of Part C legislation:**
 - Reduce the educational costs to our society, including our Nation's schools, by minimizing the need for special education and related services after infants and toddlers with disabilities reach school age
 - to enhance the capacity of families to meet the special needs of their infants and toddlers with disabilities

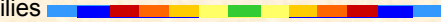
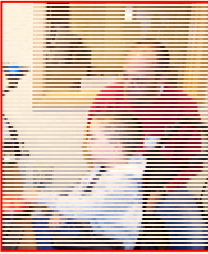


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- The early intervention system is to be family-driven
- Families are involved in planning services and outcomes
- Services are written into an IFSP
- The IFSP is both a process and a written plan that includes resources, strengths and needs of families



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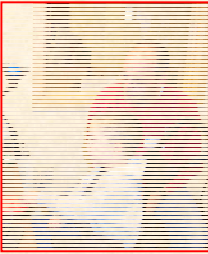
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Early intervention services are based on


evaluation

- Evaluation includes—
 - ✓ Information on child's disability
 - ✓ Family's lifestyle and culture
 - ✓ What family thinks is important
 - ✓ Desired family goals

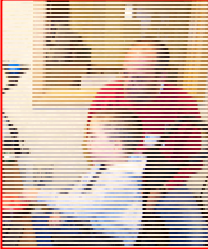


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Services are developed by-
a team

- The team includes
 - Parents
 - Other family members
 - A service coordinator
 - An evaluator
 - Others.....




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Eligibility for services

1. Developmental delay or disability in one or more of these areas— physical, communication, cognitive, adaptive, social and emotional development
2. **OR**
Child has a diagnosed physical or mental condition or disorder that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay regardless of a demonstrated need
3. **OR**
The child meets state categorical eligibility criteria



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What kinds of services are available?

- Assistive technology devices and services
- Family training, counseling, home visits
- Health services necessary to enable the child to benefit from other early intervention services
- Medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes



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What kinds of services are available?

Nutrition services
Occupational therapy
Physical therapy
Psychological services
Service coordination
Social work services




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What kinds of services are available?

Special instruction
Speech-language pathology and audiology services, and signed language and cued language services
Transportation and related costs
Vision services



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How do I start?

- ✓ Call your school district, county human services, or public health office
- ✓ Many communities have a central place for referral

Referral in Minnesota

- ✓ Local school district
- ✓ County Human Services Program
- ✓ Public Health Office

Statewide referral system: 866-693-GROW


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Screening: a Quick Look

To see if a child needs an evaluation


- ✓ Written parent permission
- ✓ **Developmental checklist or other tool**
- ✓ Reviewed by agencies that provide early intervention services
- ✓ Leads to decision about whether child needs a more complete evaluation
- ✓ Parents may disagree with decision
 - Ask for meeting to discuss, or
 - Talk with an advocate about options



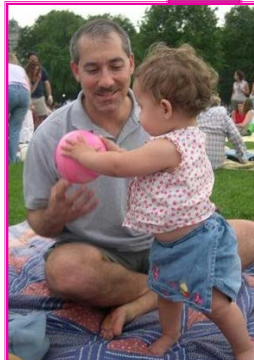
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Evaluation: A Closer Look




- ✓ Written parent permission
- ✓ Time that works for parents
- ✓ Convenient place such as at home or day care
- ✓ Includes:
 - history
 - observation
 - medical reports
 - tests
 - family interview



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Evaluation: A Closer Look



Evaluation shows what skills a child knows and how he or she is developing

“Current level of performance”

If child qualifies for services: team will meet to develop an individualized family service plan, or IFSP

“45 days from referral”

If child does not qualify: you may ask about other ways to help your child learn

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The IFSP

- Written document
- Based on evaluation
- Lists services the child and family need
- States how services will be provided



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Service coordinator



A **service coordinator** helps children and their families to receive the rights, safeguards and services available under their state's early intervention program

A service coordinator has knowledge about infants, toddlers and services, and keeps the process moving

Single point of contact



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The IFSP

Parent		Therapist
Family		Personal care attendant
EC teacher		Head Start teacher
Child care provider		Advocate
Doctor		Others
Nurse		

Who may attend the IFSP meeting?

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Focus of Services



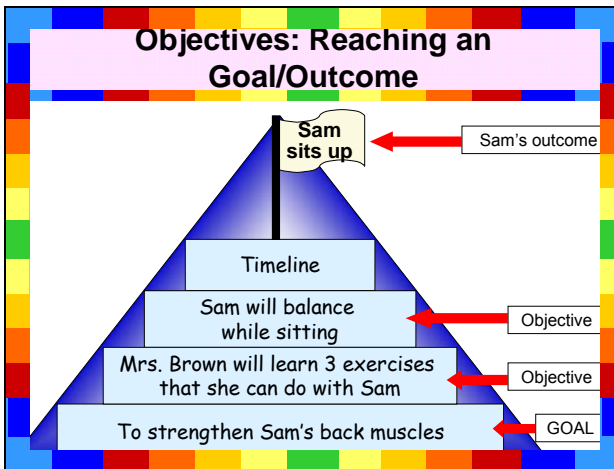
Help families enhance the learning and development of their child

Assure children participate fully in family and community activities

Maximize naturally occurring learning opportunities

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IFSP Contents




- ▶ Information about child development
- ▶ Family information (with family consent)
- ▶ Outcomes for child and family
- ▶ Services to meet child and family needs
- ▶ Dates and times of services
- ▶ How long services will be provided

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I F S P Contents

- ▶ Who pays for what service
- ▶ Service coordinator's name and number
- ▶ Steps to be taken to support the transition to preschool or other appropriate services
- ▶ Required signatures (parent and persons from agencies providing early intervention services)




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I F S P Summary

- ▶ Services start when parents agree
 - ❖ Must begin within 30 days of the effective date on the IFSP
- ▶ Review every six months
- ▶ Evaluate annually
- ▶ Parents are part of the review

IFSP is developed within 45 days from referral for evaluation



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Transition to preschool programs

90 days before turning 3....

Begin planning for a smooth transition to preschool programs-

By the child's 3rd birthday, an IEP/IFSP must be in effect, with placement in the Least Restrictive Environment – (LRE)



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Considering integrated environments



In planning preschool transition, the team should consider the need for supports and services in a regular school environment

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After the IFSP meeting

Parents receive written copy of IFSP or IEP



Agree?
Sign and return

Disagree?
Put in writing; ask for meeting

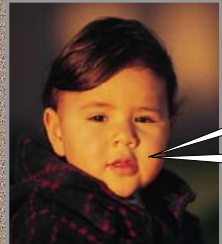
Keep copies for your records



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IFSP: Not Carved in Stone



My IFSP is flexible

My parents revise it when needed


✓ Is your child making progress?
✓ Would changes make things better?

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Procedural safeguards

- ✓ Written informed consent
- ✓ Confidentiality and release of information
- ✓ Surrogate parents
- ✓ Independent educational evaluation
- ✓ Accept or decline services without risk
- ✓ Appeal process




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Resolving differences

If you have a concern, or if you disagree with the plans for your child, call your service coordinator

When differences arise, try first to resolve them informally with the service coordinator



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Minnesota conciliation conference


Can we talk??




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Mediation



- voluntary
- timely
- impartial
- no cost
- confidential
- written agreement
- may not deny or delay right to hearing




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File a Complaint

- Put it in writing
 - Describe what the district is doing wrong or failing to do
 - Facts to support the allegation
 - What remedy do you want
 - Include a copy of the IEP
- Decision within 60 days
- Decision issued in writing



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Due Process Hearing

- Written request
- Resolution Meeting within 15 days
- Formal process
- Decision within **45 days**
- Decision issued in writing



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PACER Webinar: Families Are Important

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Thank you for viewing this presentation. If you have any questions, please contact PACER and ask to speak with an early childhood advocate
952-838-9000
or
800-537-2237

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