

# Essential Links

## Parent Links

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## What Is An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

### WHAT IS AN IFSP

The IFSP is a written plan which is the framework for meeting the unique needs of a child and a family. This plan is developed at the IFSP meeting by a team which includes the parents/guardians, the service coordinator or anyone who has evaluated the child. Parents may also invite other family members, friends, advocates, or other supportive people.

### WHO IS THE SERVICE COORDINATOR?

The person who is responsible for coordinating all early intervention services and helping parents to identify and obtain the services and assistance they need to enhance their child's development. The Service Coordinator will typically be from either a Regional Center, or an education program.

### WHEN AND WHERE IS THE IFSP MEETING HELD?

This meeting must be held at a time and place that is most convenient for all persons involved.

### WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED?

*The discussion will include:*

- Child's present development level.
- Family's concerns, priorities and resources which relate to the child's development.
- Major goals/outcomes for the next 6-12 months.
- Specific services the child will receive, including:
  - o Where
  - o How often
  - o Approximate starting dates
- Any other services needed by the child or family such as health care, etc.

### AFTER THE REFERRAL IS MADE...

- The Early Start Program has 45 days to complete an assessment and develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- IDEA requires that services to infants and toddlers be family-focused.

## **ASSESSMENT**

- DHH specialist is a member of the assessment team.
- Language/communication assessment should be specific to DHH students.
- Results of assessments not normed on DHH children should be viewed with caution.

### **SERVICES THAT MAY BE IN THE IFSP**

Ø	Assistive Technology	Ø	Audiology	Ø	Family Counseling
Ø	Family Support	Ø	Parent Education	Ø	Health/Nursing
Ø	Nutrition Services	Ø	Occupational Therapy	Ø	Physical Therapy
Ø	Psychological Services	Ø	Respite Services	Ø	Service Coordination
Ø	Social Work Services	Ø	Special Instruction*	Ø	Speech/Language
Ø	Transportation	Ø	Vision Services		

## **PRIMARY NEED**

### **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND LANGUAGE ACCESS**


#### **\*SPECIAL INSTRUCTION**

- Deaf and hard of hearing infants and toddlers, including those with multiple disabilities, should receive services from appropriately credentialed teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing students.
- Infant-toddler programs must provide intensive early intervention services aimed at the development of communication skills and linguistic competence.
- Infant-toddler programs must provide parents with training and education that will allow them to provide an enriched communication environment at home.

#### **DHH EARLY START TEACHER**

- Helps parents develop the skills they need to provide the child with a language-rich environment.
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