Early Intervention (EI):
Your First Step as an Active, Informed and Competent Parent

*Kim Herb and Mary Mikus*
Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA)

*Liz Downs and Anna Perng*
Parents as Partners in Professional Development (P3D)

National Autism Conference 2015
What is Early Intervention?
EI: Your First Steps

How EI Helps

EI in the Community

Natural Environments

Least Restrictive Environment

Tom Wolf, Governor
Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education | Ted Dallas, Secretary of Human Services
State and Federal Laws

IDEA

Part C

Part B

Federal

Act 212

State

EI: Your First Steps

Tom Wolf, Governor
Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education | Ted Dallas, Secretary of Human Services
Why does this matter to parents?

Why does this matter to professionals?
EI: Your First Steps

How to Access EI

- **CONNECT** services
  - 1-800-692-7288
  - CONNECTHelp@tiu11.org

- Local Early Intervention program
EI: Your First Steps

Supporting Families to Connect

Early childhood programs, pediatricians, family friends and others can

- Encourage families to call CONNECT/local program
- Call CONNECT/local program for information to share with the family

Screening

A short screening may be done first

- An evaluation can be requested at any time
- Most programs use the Ages and Stages Questionnaire
### EI: Your First Steps

**Multidisciplinary Evaluation**

- Norm referenced tests for key areas of development
- Observation (home and community)
- Parent interview about daily routines, family culture, and family priorities
- Teacher and caregiver interviews
- Child strength and needs
- Eligibility determined
- Evaluation Report issued

---

The Early Intervention Process: Evaluation Report – with Annotations

The Evaluation Report documents the strengths and needs of the child and family. It is used to determine eligibility, the need for supports and make recommendations that can assist the young child to develop, learn and grow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial Evaluation</th>
<th>Re-evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permiss ion to Reevaluate Required?

- Preschool only
- 22nd of October being used. Permission to Reevaluate or required.
- Preschool only

Eligibility determined

Evaluation Report issued
Eligibility

Children **birth through age three** *may be found eligible based on:*

- Delay of 25% in a developmental area
- A diagnosed disability or medical condition that has will result in a developmental delay
- Documented informed clinical opinion

---

Eligibility

Children **ages three to five** *may be found eligible based on:*

- Delay of 25% in a developmental area
- Any of the listed physical or intellectual disabilities listed in the law
- And are in need of special education
EI: Your First Steps

IFSP/IEP
Individualized Family Services Plan/
Individualized Education Plan

- Based on evaluation report
- Outcomes/goals that are achieved as part of daily routines and based on family priorities and child strengths/needs
- Services, supports, and teaching strategies
Family Centered Focus

- Developmentally appropriate
- Play/routine based
- Research based
- Social emotional supports
- Family priorities
- Strong collaboration
Person-centered planning is a process that uses creative facilitation tools to assist and focus a person in developing a plan on how they wish to live or be in the future.

We will substitute **Child and Family** for **Person**.

Focuses on the unique and positive:

- Strengths
- Gifts
- Talents

with a positive, proactive approach.
EI: Your First Steps

**Family Centered Focus**
Child and Family Centered Planning

- ALL children and families are valuable
- ALL children have talents and make contributions
- ALL children can learn
- ALL means ALL
- Families want a LIFE for their child, not a program
  - To grow up and make their own decisions – and mistakes!
  - To have real friends, real relationships
  - To enjoy real opportunities like everyone else

“Create the highest, grandest vision possible for your life, because you become what you believe.”
~ Oprah Winfrey

“A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to out better selves, a call to become something more.”
~ Rosabeth Moss Kanter
Vision Statement

- Is a family’s statement about who their child is and where they see their child in the future.
- Can be a paragraph, a page or a non-traditional approach such as a voice or video recording.
- Is most powerful when it is shared with other individuals who are important to your child and family, particularly the school team.

Results of Families Sharing Vision

Educational Benefits

- **Families**
  - Greater input into their child’s:
    - Evaluation Report (ER)
    - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
    - Transition Plan

- **Professionals**
  - Understanding of family priorities
**Sharing the Vision**

Families share their hopes and dreams.

*Professionals respect and honor families’ contributions and insights.*

Families contribute their knowledge.

*Professionals offer expertise.*

Together they support the child

---

**Writing the Vision Statement**

**A Living Vision for Eli**

I prayerfully envision that Elias will make exceeding and abundant strides in education; beyond the limitations society has placed on children diagnosed just like him. My hopes for him right now is that he goes forth onto Kindergarten this coming September and ROCKS!!! With the positive support that I ALWAYS plan on giving him, I know he will thrive and succeed above any expectations I envision for him, to actively participate in as many activities, play dates, parties, sporting groups and family functions as possible (because he never gets enough of going out). I pray his current and future communities will continue to embrace him spiritually and emotionally while nurturing him with positive seeds so that he may grow strong and independent. I have confidence that with his magnetic personality he will continue to be the ‘talk of the town’ and spread love and compassion to all of his peers. I can only imagine that his peers (throughout his life) will continue to encourage him through effective communication with a strong balance of positive peer modeling and innocent fun. I need for Elias to always remain respectful and passionate about his interests ….
How Families can use a Child’s Vision Statement?

- Incorporate your vision into the ER and IEP planning
- Request that it be attached to the ER or IEP
Family Centered Focus

- Opportunities for supporting family choice and gaining family input
  - Routines Based Interview
  - Focus groups
  - Local Interagency CoordinatedCouncils
  - Questionnaires
  - Provider list

Family Centered Focus

Routine/Play Based

- Video at home
- Video at early care and education setting
EI: Your First Steps

Family Centered Focus
Developmentally Appropriate Practices

- Early Learning Standards
- DEC Recommended Practices

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

First Circle: Circle of INTIMACY
Second Circle: Circle of FRIENDSHIP
Third Circle: Circle of PARTICIPATION
Fourth Circle: Circle of EXCHANGE

Fill Circles from the Outside–In!

Forest, Pearpoint, Falvey & Rosenberg
Family Centered Focus
Social/Emotional Supports

EI: Your First Steps

Family Centered Focus
Social Emotional Supports

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention for Young Children

Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning

Tom Wolf, Governor
Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education | Ted Dallas, Secretary of Human Services
EI: Your First Steps

**Family Centered Focus**

**Evidence Based Practices**

- Coaching (video)
- Autism-specific EBP
  - How can they be family centered/routine based?

EI: Your First Steps

**Infant/Toddler EBP**

- Antecedent-based Interventions
- Functional Behavioral Analysis
- Modeling
- Naturalistic intervention
- Parent-mediated Implemented Intervention
- Pivotal Response Training
- Prompting
- Reinforcement
- Social Skills Training
- Video Modeling

(Odom, Cox, Shaw, Kucharczyk, 2014. Evidence-Based Early Identification and Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with ASD and Their Families. CEC Conference presentation)
0-2

- Behavioral
- Comprehensive Behavioral Treatment for Young Children (CBTYC)
- Joint Attention
- Naturalistic Teaching Strategies (NTS)

3-5

- Antecedent
- Behavioral
- CBTYC
- Joint Attention
- Modeling
- NTS
- Peer Training
- Pivotal Response Training (PRT)
- Schedules
- Self-management

Video

- Child/mother diaper changing. Many examples of antecedent strategies are displayed.
- Pictures
- Schedules
- Highly preferred activities
- Offering choices
- Object to hold
- Altering the sequence in which the routine is implemented

This child is now available for interactions with mom during the routine.
Family Centered Focus

Evidence Based Practices

Resources

National Professional Development Center

- Autism Internet Modules (AIM)
- Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules (AFIRM)

Family is ‘team leader’

Collaboration among team members

Community partnerships
EI: Your First Steps

Transitions

- Identify a significant transition in your life
  - What was helpful in making it go smoothly
  - What was challenging

Infant/Toddler to Preschool

Infant /Toddler

- Transition plan should be developed for child around 2 yrs., 3 mos.
- IFSP should contain:
  - Statement of steps to take to support transition of toddler and family to PS EI services or other appropriate service.

Preschool

- By the third birthday, for children transitioning from the IT EI program, an IEP has been developed and implemented.
### Infant/Toddler to Preschool

#### Infant /Toddler
- Prior to April 2\textsuperscript{nd} and on a quarterly basis, the IT EI program will notify the PS EI program the aggregate (total) number of children who will be turning three in the upcoming year (July 1 - June 30).

#### Preschool
- The PS EI program identifies and allocates resources to ensure that these transitioning children receive Free and Appropriate Public Services in the Least Restrictive Environment.

---

#### Infant/Toddler to Preschool

#### Infant /Toddler
- IT EI program will convene a transition planning meeting not less that 90 days and not more than 9 months before the toddlers third birthday.

#### Preschool
- The PS EI program will participate in transition planning meeting arranged by the IT EI program.
EI: Your First Steps

Infant/Toddler to Preschool

Infant /Toddler Eligibility

- diagnosis that may result in delay
- developmental delay
- informed clinical opinion

Preschool ‘Two-pronged’ Eligibility

- developmental delay

OR

- diagnosis from 1 of 12 identified categories

AND

- In need of special education and related services

The IT EI program shall develop local interagency agreements with the preschool program responsible to ensure coordination on transition matters.

The PS EI program will implement a coordinated service delivery system through local interagency agreements.
EI: Your First Steps

Infant/Toddler to Preschool

Evaluation

- The PS EI team may complete the Evaluation Report using the IT assessment, their own assessment information or a combination.
- IT can complete the Evaluation Report using the PS assessment, their own assessment or a combination.
- A parent can request an evaluation at anytime from either program, given timelines.

Things to Remember

- transition timelines; longer timelines in preschool
- differences in eligibility
- more focus on supporting child in accessing typical preschool activities
- support provided for transition to community programs if child not eligible for EI
- your vision for you and your child and family
EI: Your First Steps

Infant/Toddler to Preschool

EI Portal – “Tools to Ease Transition”

Tom Wolf, Governor
Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education | Ted Dallas, Secretary of Human Services

EI: Your First Steps

Other Person Centered Planning Tools

Tom Wolf, Governor
Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education | Ted Dallas, Secretary of Human Services
EI: Your First Steps

Preschool to School Age

- Children who are within one year of transitioning must have goals that address transition.
- By February 1st of each year, PS EI programs must identify children who are approaching age for K or 1st grade in their school district.
- By February 1st, the PS EI program must send parents whose children are eligible for school "Notice of Your Child’s Transition to School Age Meeting and Notice of Options for Your Child’s Transition"

The Transition Meeting

- The PS EI program must convene transition meeting by the end of February.
- The PS EI program provides the Intent to Register form
- The school district responsibilities begin with receipt of the Intent to Register.
- The school district reviews Notice of Options for Your Child’s Transition form with families.
- Child records will be transferred.
Preschool to School Age

Notice of Transition Process Options

- By no later than April 15th, the school district will notify the parent in writing and initiate one of the following options:
  - Waive re-evaluation, adopt and implement preschool IEP, issue NOREP;
  - Waive re-evaluation, adopt and implement preschool IEP with revisions, issue NOREP; or
  - Conduct re-evaluation, create new IEP, issue NOREP.
- NOTE: Re-evaluation cannot be waived for students with intellectual disabilities.

Things to Remember

- transition timelines
- differences in eligibility (must fit into disability category - no longer developmental delay)
- transition options
- your vision for you and your child and family
EI: Your First Steps

Transition to School

Elias’ story

- What was Elias’ early intervention experience like?
- What would have been helpful to make his transition to school more successful?
- What does school look like now? Inclusive experiences?
EI: Your First Steps

Other Person Centered Planning Tools

- PATH - Planning Alternatives for Tomorrow with Hope
- COACH – Choosing Outcomes and Accommodations for Children
- Essential Lifestyle Planning
- Biographical Timeline

PATH Format

(Pierpoint, O'Brien, Forest, 1994)
What is COACH?

- Educational model
- Workbook format
- Transferred to IEP

Family Leadership Opportunities

- Parents as Partners in Professional Development
- Competence and Confidence Partners in Policymaking for Families of Children in Early Intervention
- Local Interagency Coordinating Council
- State Interagency Coordinating Council
- Guide By Your Side
EI: Your First Steps

Glimpses of Growing Up

“Let not our needs determine our dreams... but let our dreams determine our needs.”

~Colleen F. Tomko

www.kidstogether.org
Contact us:

**Kimberly Herb**
Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA)
kherb@pattan.net

**Mary Mikus**
Early Intervention Technical Assistance (EITA)
mnikus@pattan.net