

Benefits of Early Intervention Services in Natural Learning Environments

...for children and other family members

- The effectiveness of early intervention services and supports is increased when family members are involved and interventions are incorporated into the family's daily routines
- The vital role of fathers and siblings, in supporting the development of their child, is reinforced
- Families have the expertise they need to promote the development of their children during everyday activities (rather than having to add developmental activities on top of everything else)
- Interventions can be used throughout the child's daily routines, at times when the young child is physiologically and psychologically ready for interaction (Kleinhammer-Tramill & Rosenkoetter, 1994)
- The comfort of the child is increased with familiar materials and settings
- Children learn skills in the environment where they need to be used
- Families and children have more opportunities to participate, and feel a sense of belonging, with other families and children in their community
- Children gain increased skills in communication, social skills, and adaptive behavior when they are able to interact with children who are typically developing

...for parents

- The parent's concerns, resources and priorities guide service delivery and make services more relevant to the family's life
- Services and supports can be provided at times and in locations that are convenient and useful for parents
- Parents are fully involved in all decisions that affect their child
- Parents are full and equal members of the *Early On* team and actively involved in creating the IFSP
- Parents evaluate what is and is not working with their IFSP
- All interventions are built to enhance and support child and parent strengths

...for service coordinators and early intervention providers

- Early intervention providers and service coordinators are able to teach parents and caregivers how to facilitate developmental skills in the context of everyday activities
- Early intervention providers and service coordinators have a larger milieu in which to assess a child's strengths and assist with the selection of meaningful outcomes
- Early intervention providers and service coordinators are able to assist children to interact with typically developing peers and other people within their community
- Assisting parents to feel confident and competent in their parenting role by helping them to recognize their strengths and skills as parents
- Exchanging skills and knowledge with other team and community members reduces the likelihood of burnout and isolation