

What is the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)?

The term, IFSP, is used frequently throughout a child and family's journey with *Early On*[®] Michigan. It is important to remember the meaning behind this acronym, which plays such a vital role for children and families.

Individualized: The plan is developed specifically for the unique child and family. Their strengths, needs, concerns, priorities, and resources are unlike any other family's, so their plan will be original and unlike any other.

Family: The IFSP addresses the changing circumstances and development of the whole family, including the child.

Service: For *Early On*, services make up the system of early intervention which supports the development of eligible children and families. *Early On* is not a traditional program of service but a system which includes traditional early intervention services as well as natural supports, such as community programs available to children through the local YMCA, municipal parks and recreation programs, Gymboree, and so on.

Plan: The plan is an ever changing road map which addresses current conditions for families. It is created by families and providers to guide them toward families' goals that will support the development of their child.

One of the things I like about our IFSP is that it is a plan which can change. Also, it feels like the IFSP belongs to our family and not to the providers working with us. I like that.

- Mother of a 15-month-old

The IFSP is reviewed at least every six months and revised each year.

