

# 9 Key Definitions in Early Intervention



In this session, you'll learn how the Part C regulations define these 9 terms:



Infant or toddler with a disability

Developmental delay

Early intervention services

Prior written notice

Native language

Consent

Multidisciplinary

Natural environments

Service coordination services

# Infant or Toddler with a Disability

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*Infant or toddler with a disability* means an individual under 3 years of age who needs EI services because—

- the child is experiencing a **developmental delay**... in one or more developmental area:

- Cognitive development
- Physical development \*
- Communication development
- Social or emotional development
- Adaptive development

\* Including vision & hearing

# Infant or Toddler with a Disability

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*OR—*

The child has a **diagnosed physical or mental condition** that—



- has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay

# Developmental Delay

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Remember the 5 areas  
in which infants &  
toddlers can experience  
a developmental delay?



# Developmental Delay

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Each State must:

- have a rigorous definition of *developmental delay*
- describe the evaluation & assessment procedures that will be used to measure a child's development in each area
- specify the level of delay in functioning\* that constitutes a developmental delay

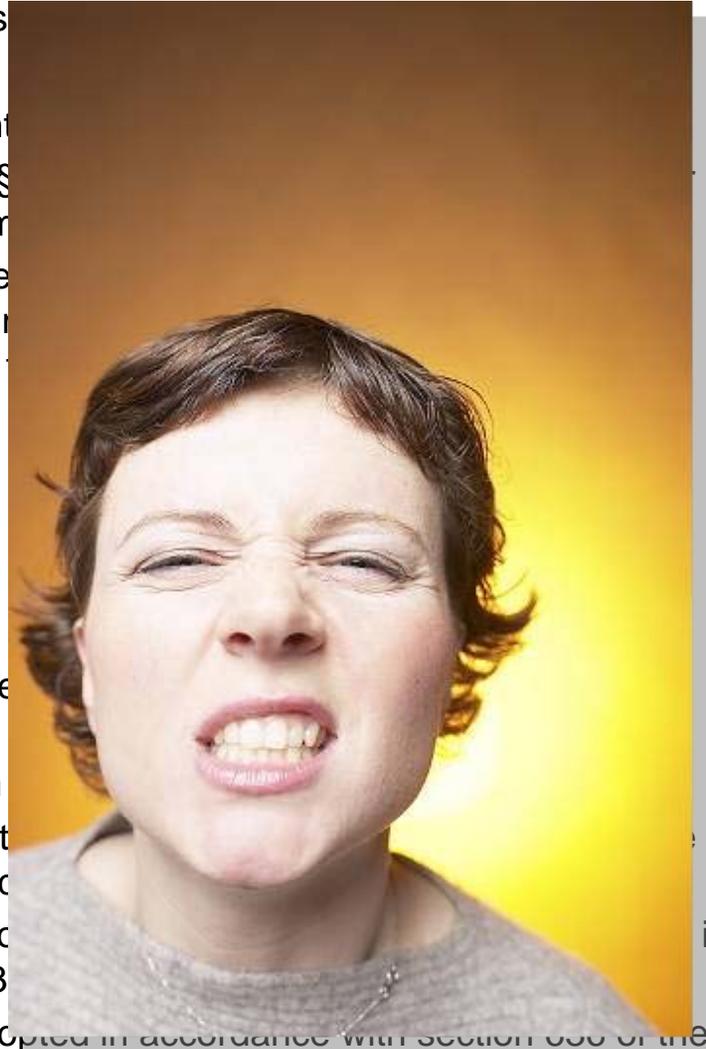
\* or other comparable criteria

Together, these will be used by the State to identify infants & toddlers with developmental delays who are in need of EI

# Early Intervention Services

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- (a) **General.** *Early intervention services* means
- (1) Are provided under public supervision;
  - (2) Are selected in collaboration with the parent;
  - (3) Are provided at no cost, except, subject to § State law provides for a system of payments by family;
  - (4) Are designed to meet the developmental needs and the needs of the family to assist appropriately in identified by the IFSP Team, in any one or more of
    - (i) Physical development;
    - (ii) Cognitive development;
    - (iii) Communication development;
    - (iv) Social or emotional development; or
    - (v) Adaptive development;
  - (5) Meet the standards of the State in which they are provided, including the requirements of part C of the Act;
  - (6) Include services identified under paragraph (b);
  - (7) Are provided by qualified personnel (as that term is defined in the types of personnel listed in paragraph (c) of this section);
  - (8) To the maximum extent appropriate, are provided in accordance with § 303.26 and consistent with §§ 303.126 and 303.303;
  - (9) Are provided in conformity with an IFSP adopted in accordance with section 600 of the Act and § 303.20.



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# Early Intervention Services means developmental services that—

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**1** | are provided under  
public supervision

**2** | are selected in  
collaboration with  
the parents

**3** | are provided at no cost,  
*except where Federal or State law  
provides for a  
system of payments  
by families*

**4** | are designed to meet the  
developmental needs of an  
infant or toddler with a  
disability & the needs of the  
family to assist appropriately in  
the child's development

# Early Intervention Services means developmental services that—

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5 | meet the **standards** of the State in which the EI services are provided and Part C requirements

6 | include **services** identified under paragraph (b)\*

*\* we'll get there!*

7 | are provided by **qualified personnel**

8 | are provided in **natural environments**, to the maximum extent appropriate

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9 | are provided in conformity with the child's **IFSP**

# Prior Written Notice

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*Prior written notice*  
must be provided to parents

A reasonable time before the  
lead agency or an EIS provider  
proposes to (or refuses to):

initiate **or** change

the infant or  
toddler's

- identification
- evaluation
- placement

*OR--*

- the provision of  
EI services to the  
child or family

# Prior Written Notice

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Notice must be in enough detail to inform parents about—

- The action that's being proposed (or refused)
- The reasons for taking the action
- All procedural safeguards available under Part C



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# Prior Written Notice

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Written notice must be:

- written in language understandable to general public
- provided in native language of parent or other mode of communication used by parent\*

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\* *Unless it is clearly not feasible to do so*

# Native Language

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*Native language* is described in 2 ways at §303.25

- For an individual → with limited English proficiency
- For an individual who:
  - is deaf|hard of hearing
  - is blind or visually impaired, or
  - has no written language

*Native language* is:

- the language normally used by the individual
- in the case of a child, the language normally used by the *parents* of the child
- during evaluations & assessments, the language normally used by the child\*

\* *if developmentally appropriate*



- For an individual who:
  - is deaf|hard of hearing
  - is blind or visually impaired, or
  - has no written language

## Native Language

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*Native language*  
is the mode of  
communication  
normally used by  
the individual

# Consent

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Parent has been fully informed\* of the activity for which consent is being sought

*\* In parent's native language*

Consent form describes that activity & lists the **EI records** that will be released (if any) and to whom

Parent understands & agrees **in writing** to the activity

Parent understands that granting consent is **voluntary** & **may be revoked** at any time

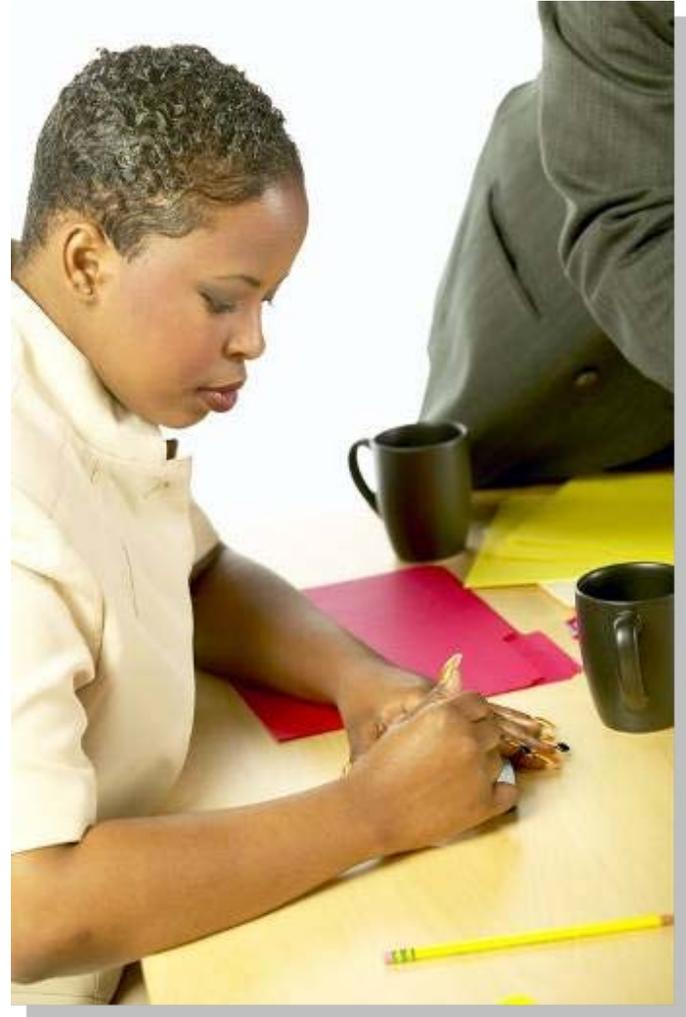
# Consent

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Under Part C, the parent **must** give consent for—

- screening
- evaluation
- provision of services identified in IFSP

May the lead agency **challenge** a parent's refusal to give consent?



During evaluation of the child & assessments of the child & family

- *Multidisciplinary* may include 1 individual who is qualified in more than 1 discipline or profession

IFSP Team:

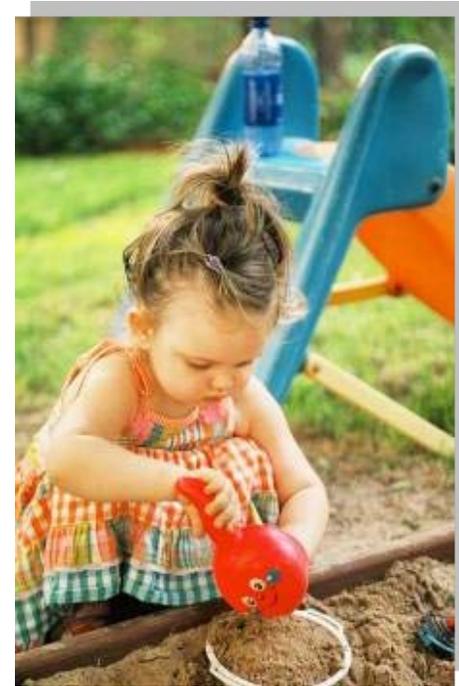
- Must include **parent** and **2 or more** individuals from separate disciplines or professions (*1 must be the service coordinator*)

## Multidisciplinary

*Multidisciplinary* means the involvement of 2 or more separate disciplines or professions

# Natural Environments

*Natural environments* mean settings that are natural or typical for a same-aged infant or toddler without a disability



May include the **home** or **community** settings

# Natural Environments

Each system must have policies & procedures to ensure...

...that EI services for infants & toddlers with disabilities are provided

→ in natural environments\*

*\* to the maximum extent appropriate*

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in settings other than the natural environment that are most appropriate\*\*

*\*\* as determined by the parent & the IFSP Team*

*\*\* only when EI services cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment*

# Service Coordination Services

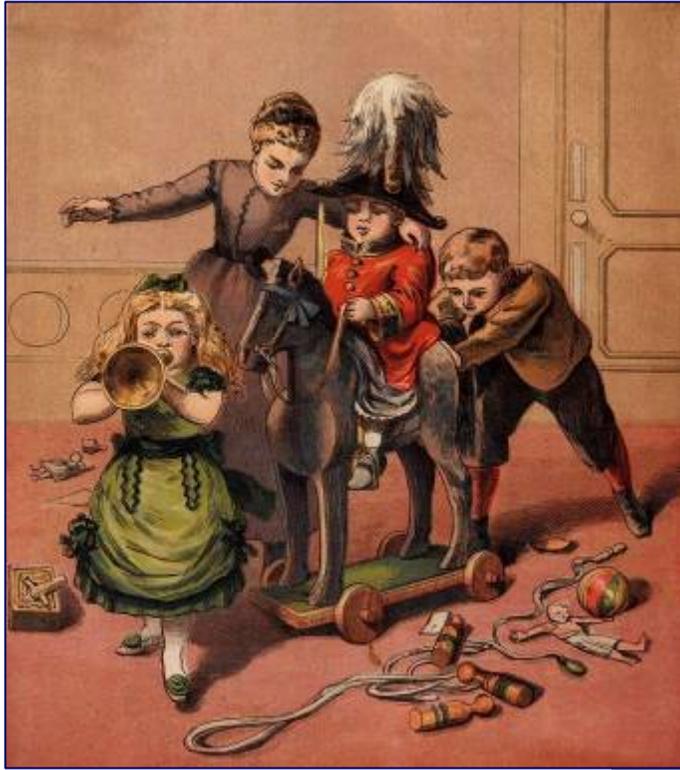
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*Service coordination services*  
mean services provided by a  
service coordinator

to assist and enable  
an infant or toddler with a disability  
(and the child's family)

to receive the services and rights  
required under Part C, including  
procedural safeguards





# Roundup Time!