

Frequency & Length of Early Intervention Services

Talks on Tuesdays – Web Discussion
September 1, 2015

10 Tips for Managing the Frequency & Length Discussion

The tips you'll find here were generated by participants in the web discussion and are based on their experiences as EI service coordinators, service providers, and local system managers.



-
1. Paint the picture of how EI works during your earliest contacts with families and again during the IFSP development meeting.
 2. Remember that intervention means learning in all settings and contexts that are important to the child and family.
 3. Be flexible in how you think about the frequency and length of EI services. Use 1x/week as a starting point and consider, as a team, if the child and family need support more or less often. Same with length of services.
 4. Look at the family's goals and priorities and determine services from there.
 5. Include the parents in the discussion. Consider with them how to balance what they need with the many other things going on in their life and how they will fit our visits into their routines.
 6. Consider the child's pace of learning and how often his/her development is likely to change.
 7. Ask the family how often they feel they would need support by someone to give them new strategies and intervention ideas.
 8. Ask the family how much time they think they'll need to practice using intervention strategies with their child between visits.
 9. Include child care providers in the development and discussion of early intervention strategies.
 10. Don't ever discuss service, frequency or length until AFTER the outcomes are developed. Outcomes should really drive the decision making and be based on family priorities and concerns. Outcomes don't belong to a discipline – they belong to the family.