



Kennedy Krieger Institute

Specialized Health Needs Interagency Collaboration

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

Birth through age 2

An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) documents and guides the early intervention process for eligible infants and toddlers ages birth through age 2 and their families. Once eligibility has been determined for the child and the family, a plan is written to guide the early intervention (EI) process in accordance with IDEA-Part C. The IFSP outlines the services that will be provided to the child and family to achieve desired outcomes specific to the family's concerns, priorities, and available resources. The IFSP involves the entire family and parents are a major contributor to the plan. All children receiving early intervention services under IDEA- Part C must have an IFSP but specific guidelines for the IFSP vary from state to state.

Components of an IFSP

- Child's present level of development of physical, cognitive, communication, social/emotional, and adaptive needs
- Family's resources, priorities, and concerns
- Expected outcomes, including timelines
- Identified natural environment where services will be provided
- Transition to preschool or other services

Members of IFSP team

- Parent
- Service coordinator
- Person(s) involved in directly conducting the evaluations and assessments
- Person(s) providing the services including any specialists
- An advocate or person outside of the family, if requested

Helpful information

- The IFSP is both a process and a document. It sets both objectives and outcomes.
- The purpose is to set reasonable developmental goals for the infant or child, and state the services that the early intervention program will coordinate and provide for the infant or child.
- Parents are critical members of the IFSP team. The family's strengths and resources should be used as building blocks.

- IDEA states that an IFSP must be specific and based on evaluation and assessment. It must be implemented as soon as possible after parental consent.
- IFSPs are reviewed every 6 months and updated annually.

Transition planning

- Once the child turns 3, special education services transition from an IFSP to an Individualized Education Program (IEP), governed under IDEA Part B. (See SHNIC's *Individualized Education Program*).
- The IEP will focus on providing services at school and focus on the child's needs.

Resources

Center for Parent Information and Resources-Writing the IFSP for Your Child
<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/ifsp/>

Hands and Voices-Appendix B General Provisions of IDEA Part C and Part B
<http://handsandvoices.org/astra/docs/appendix-B.pdf>

Pacer Center Action Information Sheets-What is the difference between an IFSP and an IEP?
<https://www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-c59.pdf>

U.S. Department of Education- Individualized Family Service Plan
<https://sites.ed.gov/idea/regs/c/a/303.20>