



The New York City Early Intervention Program for families of infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities

Early Intervention: It's All About Families

Research has shown that you are the best person to help your child learn. It's you, and other adults who spend time with your child. Your Early Intervention team will work with you. Then you can help your child learn, even more than you do now.

Research has also shown how Early Intervention works best. We know...

- Things your child does everyday are great times for your child to learn. These times might be at home, playing, getting dressed, or reading a book. These times might be outside your home, like shopping or playing at the park. These times might be at child care. These are your routine activities.
- Children need lots of time to practice new skills. This is how children learn. When your child learns throughout the day, your child gets a whole lot of practice.
- Families help their children learn all the time. They do this even without help from Early Intervention.
- In Early Intervention, families find out more ways to help their child learn.

So Your Early Interventionist...

- Comes during your routine activities when you would like support. Times you think are good for your child to learn. You do not have to change what happens in your day. You do not have to add time to your day for intervention activities.
- Looks at what your child does during routine activities. Your team helps you find ways to help your child learn during these times.
- Is there to help you help your child. You and your interventionist can find new ways to help your child learn. You can talk to your interventionist about why those ways might help your child. Your interventionist can describe and show you these new ways.
- Is your coach when she/he visits. You can try out new ways to help your child learn. Your interventionist can give you pointers and tips as you try out these new ways. That way, you can make sure these new ways work for you. Remember, you are not being a therapist. You are being a parent.

The more you share with your Interventionist, the more your Interventionist can support you, your child, and your family. Share...

- Your thoughts, feelings, and ideas. You know your child and family best.
- Other times your team can help. Your interventionist can talk to you about those times. Your interventionist can also come during those times, and work with you then.
- What you think. Do you think the suggestions work for your child? Do you think the suggestions fit your family? If not, your interventionist can find new ways to meet the goals that you want for your child.

**Early Intervention is a part of your life for a very short time.
The goal is to make the most of your time to get the most out of it.**