



AGREED UPON MISSION AND KEY PRINCIPLES FOR PROVIDING EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS

**Developed by the
Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments**

Workgroup Members:

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Intent:

The “mission statement” reflects the broad over-arching purpose of family-centered early intervention services provided under Part C of IDEA. Principles are the foundations necessary to support the system of family-centered services and supports. Both the mission and principles were developed by the workgroup and reflect consensus opinion. Please use the following citation when referring to this work.

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TA Community of Practice:

Mission and Key Principles for Providing Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments

MISSION

Part C early intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.

KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts.
2. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.
3. The primary role of a service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives.
4. The early intervention process, from initial contacts through transition, must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child's and family members' preferences, learning styles and cultural beliefs.
5. IFSP outcomes must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities.
6. The family's priorities, needs and interests are addressed most appropriately by a primary provider who represents and receives team and community support.
7. Interventions with young children and family members must be based on explicit principles, validated practices, best available research, and relevant laws and regulations.

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