

CEITMP Quarterly Newsletter

Powerful Partnerships That Support Children Receiving Early Intervention Services in Childcare Settings

Part One: Common Questions About EI in Childcare
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KEIS Coaching in Early Intervention Training and Mentorship Program
through contract with the Kentucky Department for Public Health

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We're excited to introduce our new newsletter series: Powerful Partnerships That Support Children Receiving Early Intervention Services in Childcare Settings. Throughout this series, we'll explore how families, early intervention (EI) providers and early care and education teams collaborate to create inclusive, responsive environments that support children's learning and development.

EI services are often delivered in childcare settings, where the classroom environment offers a unique and dynamic context for supporting young children. Classrooms bustle with activity, teachers juggle many responsibilities and daily routines provide structure and predictability. With multiple caregivers and natural opportunities for peer interaction, these settings create rich opportunities for collaboration among adults as they enhance children's participation in everyday activities and meaningful engagement with others.

In this first edition, we're spotlighting a topic that's frequently asked about: how EI services work in childcare settings. We're excited to share a new printable resource below: [Common Questions About Early Intervention in Childcare Settings](#). This infographic offers an overview of EI services, outlines the roles of each team member and highlights the benefits of collaboration for teachers, children and families. It's designed to be shared with families, childcare center directors and teachers to foster shared understanding and strengthen partnerships.



We are grateful to Melissa Hardison and Kelly Tharpe for collaborating on this infographic, and to the Peer Supporters and Service Coordinator Facilitators for their review and feedback!



Common Questions About Early Intervention in Childcare Settings

WHAT IS EARLY INTERVENTION (EI)?

Kentucky's Early Intervention (EI) helps babies and toddlers with delays or disabilities. Sometimes a child may be doing fine in some areas but still need help in others - delays aren't always easy to see. The goal is to support families and caregivers so children develop and take part in everyday life, focusing on:

- Learning and problem-solving
- Moving and getting around safely
- Communicating
- Playing and getting along with others
- Doing daily tasks like eating or dressing
- Understanding others

WHO PROVIDES EI SERVICES?

Early interventionists coach the people who are with the child every day. EI providers may include:

- Developmental interventionists
- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Speech therapists

WHERE DO EI SERVICES HAPPEN?

EI happens during everyday routines, wherever children spend time:

- At home
- In childcare centers or home daycares
- With extended family
- In the community - library, store, park, etc.

WHAT ARE TEACHER & PROVIDER ROLES?

EI is a team effort! Teachers are a key part of that team. When EI happens in childcare settings:

- Teachers act as a bridge between the provider and the family
- Providers wait for natural chances to talk or share ideas without interrupting class time
- Providers should not take the child out of the classroom for therapy, because the goal is for the child to receive support in their typical routines
- Teachers and providers build a trusting relationship by confirming each other's responsibilities and perspectives while partnering in the classroom

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR TEACHERS?

Teachers get:

- Extra help and encouragement from another caring adult
- Guidance to help children with disabilities or delays join in activities with friends
- Strategies to use with all children in the classroom

HOW DO CHILDREN & FAMILIES BENEFIT?

It helps:

- Children get help from people they know and trust
- Families feel more confident their child is learning and developing
- Everyone become aware of the strengths and abilities of all children



ANYONE CAN REFER A CHILD FOR EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

If you have any concerns, talk to the family about EI ,and with their permission, make a referral. Scan the QR code or visit

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dmch/ecdb/fs/POElistingforWebsite.pdf>

Building Bridges

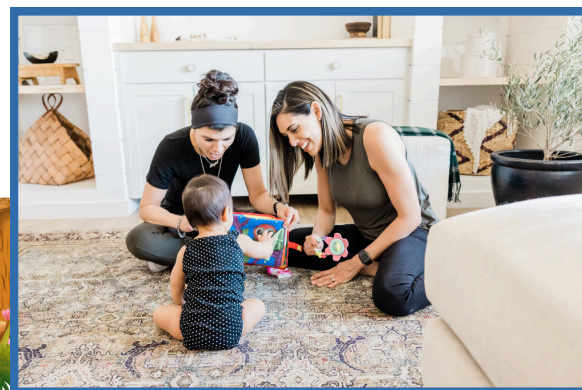
When children receive most of their EI services in childcare, it's important to schedule regular, intentional visits with their families. These visits help all team members stay connected on progress, priorities, and strategies, and ensure consistent support across settings. The clips below, from a KEIS provider's visit with a parent, illustrate how open communication between EI providers, childcare teachers and caregivers contributes to the child's success



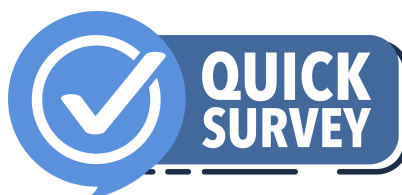
Click on the video camera icon to see how an EI provider connects the signs taught at childcare to mealtime routines with the child's mother at home.



Click on the video camera icon to see a conversation with a mother and EI provider bridging the communication between childcare and home.



We want to hear from you! Take a moment to complete this brief survey to let us know what additional topics related to coaching-in-childcare you would like to see featured in the next newsletter, and successful strategies you use. Click the survey icon below.



For more information about Coaching in Early Intervention Training and Mentorship Program:

- Click [here](#) to visit the KEIS webpage
- Click [here](#) to visit our YouTube channel