



Just The Facts About A Primary

Service Provider Approach To Teaming

1. Part C - Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that eligible families have access to a team of qualified professionals.
2. Teaming Approach - The recommended teaming approach in early childhood intervention involves the use of a primary service provider (PSP) (Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments, 2008).
3. Why - Use of a PSP approach to teaming ensures access to other team members when needed, helps reduce potential confusion caused by having multiple providers, and promotes learning across developmental domains within specific everyday activities.
4. Team - Early childhood intervention teams should minimally include the family, an early childhood educator/special educator, occupational therapist, physical therapist, speech-language pathologist, and service coordinator (may be dedicated or combined role).
5. Availability - All team members (with the exception of a dedicated service coordinator) are available to potentially serve as a PSP.
6. Selection - One team member is selected by the team, which includes the family, to serve as the PSP. The best PSP is determined based on long-term view and a combination of family, child, environmental, and practitioner factors.
7. Focus - The role of the PSP is to support the caregiver with promoting child learning within the context of everyday routines and activities in the home, community, and early childhood classroom settings.
8. Support - The PSP receives ongoing support from other team members during informal conversations, team meetings, and joint visits.
9. Updates - All team members attend the regularly scheduled team meetings. Each child and family are discussed at least quarterly. More frequently updates may occur if the PSP and family have questions or need support from additional team members.

10. Change - The PSP rarely changes if initially selected based on long-term view unless the child's/family's situation changes so dramatically that another team member would be a better match for the family.

Shelden, M. L. & Rush, D. D. (2022). The early intervention teaming handbook (2nd ed.).
Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.