



Kentucky Early Intervention System

Program Standards

Kentucky Early Intervention System provides supports and services for families with children birth to three who have developmental delays or disabilities.

Research shows that the first three years of a child’s life are the most important time for developing and learning. By providing needed services and supports during this time, families will be able to help their children with special needs develop to their full potential, and may decrease the need for additional help later in life.

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.¹

The program standards lay the foundation for the early intervention system. They are a way to talk about how services are provided and delivered to the families we support. The six Program Standards identified are:

Standard 1: Family-centered
Families identify the Individualized Family Service Plan outcomes that determine early intervention services, resources and supports and actively participate during intervention visits.
Standard 2: Individualized
Early intervention services are individualized to meet the identified needs of the child and family.
Standard 3: Evidence-based
Early intervention services are evidence-based to enhance the family and child’s learning and development in relation to the Individualized Family Service Plan outcomes.
Standard 4: Natural environment
All families receive early intervention services in places where families and children participate in daily life.
Standard 5: Team-based
First Steps provides a statewide, team-based early intervention program for families of eligible infants and toddlers.
Standard 6: Transition
Children and families have a smooth, seamless transition into, within and out of early intervention.

¹ The mission statement was developed by a workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments, OSEP TA Community of Practice: Part C Settings. (2008, March). *Agreed upon mission and key principles for providing early intervention services in natural environments*. Retrieved from http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/families/Finalmissionandprinciples3_11_08.pdf