



Early Intervention

1. Hello and welcome to The Exceptional Family Member

Program's Early Intervention Overview.

2. Over the next few minutes we will:

a. Define Early Intervention.

b. Identify developmental milestones.

c. Recognize the differences between an IFSP and an
I.E.P.

d. Understand IDEA (or The Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act) and

e. Learn about resources available to you.



3. Let's begin. Early intervention is a system of services that helps infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities.

4. In North Carolina, early intervention refers to the system of services provided by many different agencies and programs for children birth to five and their families. This comprehensive, interagency system is called "Together We Grow." There are two parts of "Together We Grow."

a. Infant-Toddler Program for children birth to three.

b. Preschool Program for children ages three to five.

c. The North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council is an advisory group to both programs.

5. Developmental milestones are skills such as taking first steps, smiling for the first time and waving "bye-bye."



Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave and move. They are categorized by:

- a. Social/emotional
- b. Language/communication
- c. Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)
- d. Movement/physical development
- e. For more detailed information on various developmental milestones you can visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Learn the Signs. Act Early website at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/
- f. Please pause the video now if you wish to note the website.



6. Feel free to take this short quiz to determine how well you can spot developmental milestones. To take the quiz please visit:

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/features/quiz/autism/autism.html

- a. Please pause the video now if you wish to note the website.
7. Children grow, develop and learn at variable rates. A child's development can be measured by achievement of social, physical and cognitive developmental milestones. A child with developmental delays is not developing like others at his or her age. Delays can be in one or more the following areas: thinking and learning; moving, seeing, hearing and health; understanding and using sounds, gestures and words; responding to and developing



relationships; taking care of one's self when doing things like feeding or dressing. Early intervention services may also be available for a child with a diagnosed physical or mental condition that will probably cause developmental delay. For example; genetic disorder, vision problems, hearing loss or autism.

8. It is normal to have unsettling feelings and emotions toward a new diagnosis of developmental delay. The Camp Lejeune and New River Community are fortunate to have a resource rich environment to help service members and their dependent is cope, learn and grown within their situation.

9. Here is what you can do:



- a. Register with the EFMP and connect with a family case worker to help you navigate your new normal.
- b. Research and learn about your child's condition. Your local EFMP office has a lending library filled with books on various topics. Your EFMP family case worker will also share information with you on your child's diagnosis and provide educational materials and resources.
- c. Expand your network of support to include families in similar situations.
- d. Seek out your state's Parent Training and Information Center and discover which support services you qualify for.



- e. Talk to your family about the diagnosis and lean on them for support when needed.
10. It is important to start early to increase the child's rate of learning and development, guide parents on how best to support and advocate for their child, and ensure long-term educational and developmental gains can be made.
 11. Additionally, Early Intervention helps
 - a. Decrease isolation and stress.
 - b. Empowers parents as they learn how to help their child and
 - c. Improves outlook on life.
 12. Upon starting the Early Intervention process you will:



- a. Be assigned a service coordinator who will plan, organize and oversee the early intervention services needed for your family.
 - b. Receive evaluations to determine specific developmental delays and to determine eligibility.
 - c. Generate an Individual Family Support Plan (IFSP) to help strengthen and grow developmental skills.
 - d. Have access to services that aid the strengthening and growth in developmental skills.
 - e. Provide an easier transition into a school setting.
13. Referrals to Early Intervention can be made by parents, physicians or other concerned people.
 14. Your service coordinator is assigned after the referral.

They can:



- a. Coordinate appointments for assessments and evaluations.
 - b. Help create your IFSP and
 - c. Aides with transition out of Early Intervention.
15. The evaluation process includes:
 - a. Parent interviews
 - b. Medical history screening
 - c. Assessments by specialist in areas of particular concern and
 - d. Must be done within 45 day of referral.
16. After evaluations are concluded you will take part in an eligibility meeting. This meeting is comprised of the parents and local professionals. You will all review the data and results from the evaluation process. The team



will talk about whether or not your child meets criteria under the IDEA or state policy for early intervention services. Please pause this video and review this simple checklist. The list provides recommendations on items and people you should bring with you to the eligibility meeting.

17. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ensures services throughout the nation are available to children with disabilities. The goal of the law is to limit the effects of a child's disability or delay on his or her development. The services provided under the IDEA are typically free. To learn more about the IDEA you can visit:

<http://idea.ed.gov/>



18. Throughout the Early Intervention Process you are entitled to specific rights under the IDEA. Please pause this video to review some of your rights. Understand that this is not an inclusive list of rights. For more information on your rights under the IDEA please visit the website provided earlier in this video.

19. Many parents are more familiar with and Individualized Education Program (IEP) as opposed to an (individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP). For this reason we have included a quick comparison for your review. Please pause this video to review the differences between an IFSP and an IEP.

20. Also provided for you is a list of services available to you through the Early Intervention Process. You can work



with your Family Service Coordinator to obtain the services needed as described on your IFSP. Please take a moment to pause the video and review the list provided.

21. Military families face obstacles that many other Americans do not. Consistent relocation is a challenge when creating an environment conducive for consistent learning and growing. We recommend being extremely organized. Your EFMP Family Caseworker can help you create a Special Care Organizational Record. When traveling, carry your Early Intervention documents, contact your new Early Intervention Program as soon as possible, work closely with your EFMP Family Case Worker to coordinate transition to a new installation and educate



yourself on your child's needs to be the best advocate for their success.

22. Provided for you here is a local resource in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Please pause the video to capture the web address provided.
23. Another local support is the Children's Developmental Services Agency (CDSA). They provide family support in addressing the special needs of infants or toddlers to enhance the development of the child. Please pause the video to take note of the information provided.
24. For Early intervention services on Camp Lejeune or New River please contact the Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (or EDIS). Please



pause the video to take note of the contact information provided.

25. Thank you for your time today. If you have any questions please contact your local EFMP Office using the contact information provided here.