

Primary Service Provider Approach to Teaming Fact Sheet

- Every family receives support from a geographically-based, multidisciplinary team that minimally consists of an educator, occupational therapist, physical therapist, service coordinator, and speech-language pathologist. Depending upon the program, additional disciplines may also be available to serve on the team.
- All team members (with the exception of the service coordinator) are available to potentially serve as a primary service provider (PSP).
- In a system using dedicated service coordinators, the PSP and service coordinator work closely together to ensure accomplishment of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) outcomes.
- All team members are expected to have basic knowledge of child development across all domains and how to promote child learning and participation within the context of everyday life activities in the home, community, and early childhood setting (e.g., child care, preschool) as well as parenting resources (e.g., toileting, sleep, behavior, basic nutrition), and parent supports (e.g., health care, transportation, education, basic needs).
- One team member is selected by the team, which includes the family, to serve as the primary service provider. This is the team member the family will see on a regular basis to assist them in achieving the IFSP outcomes.
- The primary service provider is selected keeping the long-term view (potentially up to 3 years of child/family involvement with the early intervention program) in mind and based on a combination of family, child, environmental, and practitioner factors.
- The final decision of primary service provider is determined at the IFSP meeting.
- The frequency of the primary service provider's visits and joint visits with other team member's is based upon the current needs of the child/family and are flexible, activity-based (different days & times), and may include bursts of service as necessary.
- The primary service provider receives ongoing support from other team members during informal conversations, team meetings, and joint visits.
- Joint visits occur with both team members and the family present and during the activity setting in which the child/family/PSP need support in promoting the child's participation.
- The primary service provider uses evidence-based intervention practices to promote parent-mediation of child participation within the context of everyday routines and activities using toys and materials existing in the environment and assistive technology introduced by the team as needed.
- All team members attend the regular team meeting, which occurs no less than every other week.
- Each child is discussed in the regular team meeting at least quarterly and more frequently if the primary service provider and/or family have a question and/or need support from another team member.
- Since working with families is relationship-based, the primary service provider rarely changes, but may do so if the child's/family's situation changes so dramatically that another team member would be the best match for the family. PSP does not change just because the child's IFSP outcomes change or are accomplished and new outcomes developed.