

Parents' Responsibilities

Parents are active participants
in the early intervention process.

Parents' responsibilities include:



Full participation in the IFSP process—
working with service providers to plan
and carry out goals for their child,
and sharing their knowledge
and observations with them



Informing their service coordinator
of issues that may affect their
child's services



Being on time for scheduled appointments
and notifying their service provider
when they are unable to keep
an appointment



Respecting the people and environments
where services are provided
so that all families can benefit
from early intervention



Need more information? The following resources
provide more information about parents' rights in
the early intervention system.

- *Dreams and Challenges: A Family Guide to the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program*
- Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Part 303, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Part 300, Sections 560-577, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Part 99, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations

For copies of any of these documents, contact the:

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Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program
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Parents' Rights and Responsibilities in the Early Intervention System

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services
Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program



The cornerstone of Maryland's early intervention system is the collaboration between families and professionals to support and enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities. This partnership is the foundation upon which family-centered individualized family service plans (IFSPs) are developed.

Both Part C of IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), and the Code of Maryland Regulations 01.04.01 ensure specific rights for parents within the early intervention system.

This brochure briefly defines these rights, which assure that the parents' views and preferences about services to their child and family are heard and respected, and that parents have access to the information they need to play an active role in decision making about delivery of those services.

Each family participating in Maryland's Early Intervention System shall receive a copy of *Dreams and Challenges: A Family's Guide to the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program*, which explains parents' rights in greater detail.

In Maryland's Early Intervention System, parents have the right to:

- *Consent to evaluation, assessment, and provision of early intervention services.*

Parents should receive information they need to make responsible decisions about how their child and family will receive services. Parents have the right to accept or decline any early intervention service in accordance with State law without jeopardizing the provision of other services.

- *Review and request amendment of early intervention records.*

Parents are entitled to see their child's early intervention record. If parents believe the record contains information that is inaccurate or misleading, they may request that the record be amended.

- *Receive notice of their rights and of actions proposed by the early intervention system.*

Parents should receive clear, understandable information about their rights. Throughout their involvement in the early intervention system, parents should receive reasonable notice, in their native language, as evaluation and services are begun or a change is proposed.

- *Require that personal information be kept confidential.*

Parents must agree, in writing, before any personally identifiable information can be shared with early intervention and other service providers. Release of information without parental consent is only permitted in certain circumstances.

- *File a complaint with the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP).*

Parents may file a written complaint with MITP anytime during their participation in the early intervention system if they disagree with: (1) their child's eligibility determination for early intervention services; (2) an evaluation or assessment of their child; (3) provision of services for their child; or (4) their financial obligation for services for their child.

- *Have formal complaints resolved by an impartial decision maker.*

At the parents' request, a mediation session and/or an impartial hearing will be conducted to resolve complaints. For more information about these processes, refer to the *Mediation and Impartial Complaint Resolution* brochures, available from MITP.

