

5 WAYS TO HELP FAMILIES NAVIGATE EARLY INTERVENTION



Since the process of early intervention starts with identification and assessment, generally there's a waiting period. As a practitioner, you can use this time to keep families educated and informed every step of the way. Here's how:

1

EXPLAIN THE PROCESS



Use 'plain language.'



Give overview of assessments.



Confirm overall timelines.



Affirm family rights and responsibilities.



Clearly identify who is involved & their contact info.

2

EXPLORE FAMILY GOALS & CONCERNS



Find out about the family's needs & priorities.



Enroll in cultural awareness training if necessary.



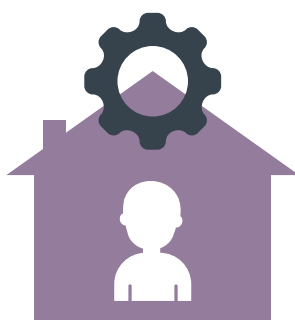
Create new tools & processes if needed.



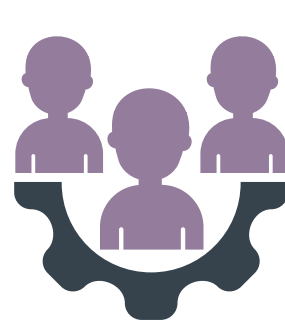
Choose interventions with greatest potential for improving quality of life.

3

INVITE FAMILY TO ADVOCATE



Encourage developmental activities at home that fit with family routines and resources.



Direct families to programs in the community.



Empower families to be advocates for their children in community and policy.

4

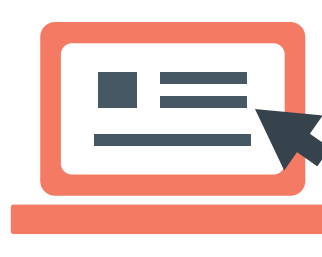
COMMUNICATE NEXT STEPS



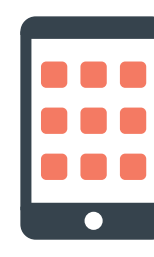
Share what to expect with a waiting period.



Confirm family rights & responsibilities in special education.



Discuss how the family would like to receive updates.



Relay opportunities via parent-focused social media, ads, community calendars, and flyers from school.

5

REQUEST FEEDBACK



What are some practical concerns from the family?



Which parts of the evaluation were challenging for families?



What might make the process easier for families going forward?

Read more at wpspublish.com/blog/helping-families-navigate-early-intervention.