

## **PART C/*tiny-k* EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **WHAT ARE PART C/*tiny-k* EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?**

Early intervention for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities was established as a national commitment in the form of federal legislation. Early intervention services are offered at no cost to families, regardless of income. All eligible children and their families receive services and there are no waiting lists. The lead agency for the statewide system of Infant-Toddler Services is the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

### **WHAT DO PART C/*tiny-k* EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES OFFER?**

Part C/*tiny-k* services offer service coordination, developmental evaluations, and early intervention services by qualified personnel who hold current and valid credentials in their field of practice. Information in all areas of development (physical—health and nutritional status, vision, motor and hearing; cognitive; communication; social or emotional; adaptive) is addressed. It is recognized that children are best supported within their family and the family is best supported within their community. Early intervention services and supports foster collaborative partnerships, are family centered, occur in natural settings, recognize current evidence based practice in early intervention and are built upon mutual respect and choice with families.

### **WHO CAN MAKE A REFERRAL TO PART C/*tiny-k* PROGRAMS?**

Parents, physicians, hospitals, child care programs, social service agency staff, education agency staff, or others may refer an infant or toddler for an evaluation to determine if the child is eligible to receive early intervention program services. Parent permission for this referral is not required, however it is beneficial if this consent is obtained. An evaluation of a child cannot be conducted without parent consent.

### **WHY ARE FAMILIES AN INTEGRAL PART OF EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES?**

Early intervention service personnel understand that the early years constitute an unusually receptive opportunity to have a significant and lasting impact on the lives of young children with developmental delays or disabilities. The early identification of a child with a disability has profound implications for families and thus warrants special efforts to assure family involvement. Families and early intervention practitioners share responsibility and work collaboratively. Research shows that increasing learning opportunities in everyday experiences with primary caregivers are key to promoting learning and development for young children. An integral part of this approach supports research demonstrating that cognitive, social, emotional, motor and language development are interconnected.

### **WHAT IS AN IFSP?**

An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is the umbrella document that outlines the ongoing process of planning and adjusting collaborative services for the addressing the developmental needs of children with disabilities and developmental delays and their families. IFSPs used by Part C/*tiny-k* early intervention programs outline the who, what, why, where and how of services for each child and their family. Included in this are specific outcomes and how those outcomes will be achieved.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EARLY INTERVENTION?**

Early recognizes the significant brain development that occurs during the first three years of life. Thus, early intervention services are designed to enhance the development of infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. Services are intended to reduce the need for special education and related services after infants and toddlers with disabilities reach school age. Early intervention, Part C, has as its mission to enhance the capacity of families to meet the special needs of their infants and toddlers with disabilities. Part C is intended to maximize the potential for infants and toddlers in the program to live independently in society as

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adults. Part C seeks to meet the needs of all children, particularly, minority, low-income, inner city, and rural children and infant and toddlers in foster care.

**WHERE ARE PART C/*tiny-k* SERVICES AVAILABLE?**

There are 37 Part C/*tiny-k* networks which serve every county in the state of Kansas. The local networks are a community partnership, blending various resources and requiring collaboration from numerous entities. These early intervention programs are funded by a combination of federal, state and local dollars.

**HOW DO I LOCATE PART C/*tiny-k* SERVICES?**

The Kansas Resource Guide assists families in locating local resources (1-800-332-6262) or you may visit the KDHE link at: [http://www.kdheks.gov/its/download/network\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/its/download/network_brochure.pdf)