

Parent Experiences

"TEIS has done so much for our family. They have coached me through specific challenges with my children, and have been a source of encouragement as a mom. They see my life, my real life; the one that's messy and complicated and hard. And in my lowest most defeated moments, they were in my corner. They support me when life is overwhelming and cheer us on as we find success."

"But since our EI has been coming to our home, I have learned that it is all the little things I do throughout my day in our regular activities that make the biggest difference in how Trace learns and is successful."

"I still miss the toy bag, but my EI lets me know that as her mom, I can decide the kinds of toys and activities that are good for my child. I feel that since we changed how visits happen, I am able to parent my child with confidence more. For the past few months I have really enjoyed being a momma to my little girl."

Principles of Early Intervention

- Early Intervention supports families to help their children develop.
- Early Intervention takes place at home and in the community with the family.
- Families and professionals work together to create and monitor goals.
- Goals are family-centered, written with the child and family's routine in mind.
- Early Intervention plans focus on helping children become more social, explore their surroundings, and become more independent.
- Families use home activity programs to work with their child throughout the week.
- Goals and strategies are monitored to be sure they are effective.
- Providers working with families are kept to high standards.

education



Tennessee Early Intervention System: What is Developmental Therapy?

What to expect if your child will be receiving the service of Developmental Therapy.



Tennessee Early Intervention System



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Learn more and contact us:
tn.gov/education/teis
1-800-852-7157

Questions about Developmental Therapy

What is Developmental Therapy?

Developmental therapy is a service provided by an Early Interventionist (EI). The EI works with you and your family to work on the concerns you have about your child's development. Early Intervention is crucial to providing a good education to children with special needs. Visits with your EI help create a solid foundation for early learning.

EIs in TEIS are education professionals who stay current with methods that help children develop and to help families. Your EI will be a useful source of information and ideas to support your child's abilities. It is important that you and the EI work together to make plans that are easy to do in your daily life and that help your child learn.

What will the EI and I do together?

Activities are based on the goals from your IFSP. You and your EI will talk about your daily life, what you have tried, and what you would like to see your child do during the day (such as meal times, playing with siblings, bath, etc.).

During each visit, you will pick the goals to be the focus of this week's visit. The EI can show you methods that could help your



child develop while there. The strategies you develop with your EI should help you and your child during your daily life. Together you can make plans of activities you can try later. In the next visit, you can let the EI know how these ideas worked and make changes to the activities as needed.

Toys and safe items in your home that your child interacts with everyday can be used to enhance your child's development until your next visit. No special purchases are needed.

Your observations of your child provide valuable information in the ongoing assessment of your child's progress. Your EI also tracks your child's progress and shares that information with you.

Do I need to be there during the visit?

Yes, you are not only the expert on your child, but you will be interacting with your child and the EI during the visit. This is an opportunity to learn about activities and ideas that you can do with your child until the next visit.

My child is at day care or with a relative during the day. Can the EI see my child there?

Yes, the EI will share information and ideas with your child's day care or relative and you to meet the goals of the IFSP. Because family involvement is an essential part of early intervention, you can have the IFSP team schedule visits with you as well.

What if I need to miss an appointment with my EI?

Consistent visits are the best way to meet the goals of your IFSP. However, please contact your EI directly to cancel or reschedule your visit as soon as you can if you have an unexpected emergency. If you know in advance that you have a scheduling conflict, discuss other times for a visit that may work for you with your EI.

Please call Tennessee's Early Intervention System if you have any questions.
1-800-852-7157
tn.gov/education/teis