



Guiding Concepts for Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)

Technical Assistance Guide

◆ Why were the Guiding Concepts for ESIT developed?

- In the Spring of 2010, ESIT initiated a system improvement project (SIP) with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. This included revisiting the Washington State Part C mission and principles to both improve the system and daily practice, and to provide guidance regarding the foundational elements of Washington's efforts to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families.
- The Guiding Concepts document was designed to provide clarity both within and outside the early intervention community regarding three key questions: What do we do? How do we do it? What do we hope to achieve?
- The Guiding Concepts process was not designed to develop a vision statement for ESIT. ESIT operates under the vision held by its parent organization the Department of Early Learning (DEL).

◆ How can the Guiding Concepts be used?

- The Guiding Concepts can be shared with families by Family Resources Coordinators, practitioners and staff in multiple formats including electronically, via the mail, face to face, or by posting on agency walls.
- The Guiding Concepts can be shared at inquiry or intake to clarify the foundation of Part C services for families, caregivers, and referral sources.
- The Guiding Concepts can be used with service providers, funders, and policy makers to inform them about your work.
- Agencies can use the Guiding Concepts as part of their strategic planning around their delivery of early intervention services.
- County Interagency Coordinating Councils (CICCs) can use the Guiding Concepts both to inform others about the nature of Part C early intervention and to ensure their strategic planning aligns with core values held by ESIT and Washington's early intervention community.

◆ How were the Guiding Concepts for ESIT developed?

- Stakeholders first became engaged with the development of a mission statement and key principles for ESIT at a two day stakeholder meeting launching SIP work in April of 2010. At that meeting, approximately 90 stakeholders worked together to identify core components of mission and principle statements for the Washington community. A group of parents, providers and trainers volunteered to finalize this work.
- In May 2010, a follow up survey was sent to all meeting participants allowing them to further weigh in on priorities and wording for mission and principles statements.
- In June 2010, meeting feedback, stakeholder comments, survey responses and ESIT staff feedback were reviewed and consolidated.
- In July 2010, a second survey was released to the entire field with an open public comment period.
- In August and September 2010, the mission and principles workgroup met several times to process public responses, and further revise materials. It was decided at that time that the federally required outcomes were important to be included in this document.
- In Fall 2010, the Guiding Concepts underwent final reviews.
- In Winter 2011, the document was sent to print for a poster sized version and this technical assistance guide was developed and finalized.

◆ What materials informed the development of the Guiding Concepts?

- Three documents from national early intervention stakeholder groups were used as starting points for developing Washington's thinking.
 - Agreed Upon Mission and Key Principles for Providing Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments – developed by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Technical Assistance (TA) Community of Practice Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments
 - Seven Key Principles, Looks Like/Doesn't Look Like – also developed by the OSEP TA Community of Practice Workgroup
 - Ultimate Goals for Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education Program Support – developed by the Early Childhood Outcomes Center
- The ESIT Outcomes represent the three child and three family outcomes that all Part C early intervention programs are required to report on by the Federal government.
 - Detailed information on these outcomes can be found at: www.the-ECO-Center.org