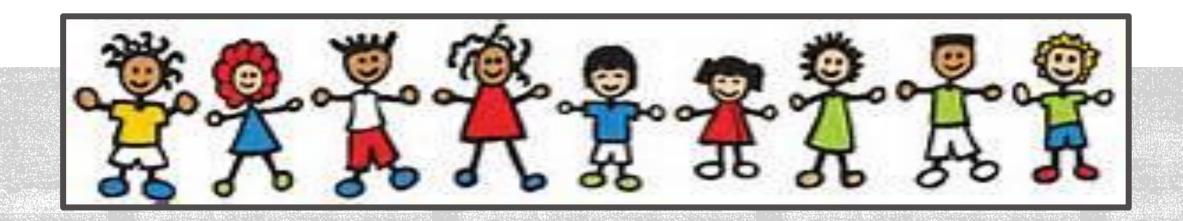
# ALABAMA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM



# A STEP AHEAD



# EARLY INTERVENTION 101



What is Alabama's Early Intervention?

What is AEIS Child Find?

- Who is eligible to receive EI services?

- What is AEIS's Commitment...8 Core Values

# THE FOUNDATION IS IMPORTANT!

Individuals with
Disabilities Education Act
- Part C

AL Department of Rehabilitation Services — Lead Agency

Over 50 EI Programs across all 67 counties serving over 7700 infants, toddlers and their families.

Seven Local District EI Coordinating Councils

# AN URGENT NEED!

Reduce Special Costs

Enhance Capacity Of Families

Inhance Development of

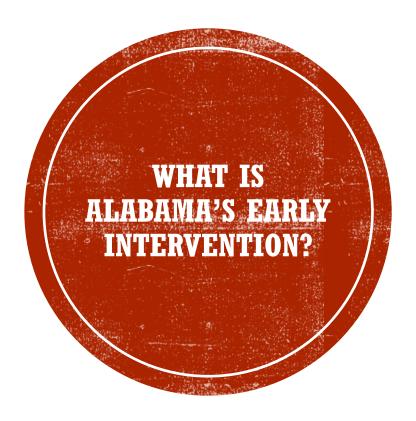


Keep Families Together

Utilize Evidence Based Practices

> Minimize Likelihood for Institutionalization





- ✓ Coordinated, family-focused system of resources, supports and services for eligible infants and toddlers birth through 2 years who have developmental delays or a diagnosis that would put them at risk for developmental delays
- ✓ Supported by federal, state and private funding sources
- ✓ System of service delivery that is voluntary on behalf of the family even if the child is eligible for early intervention

# INERVENTION

Referral & Eligibility

Timelines, IFSP, Transition

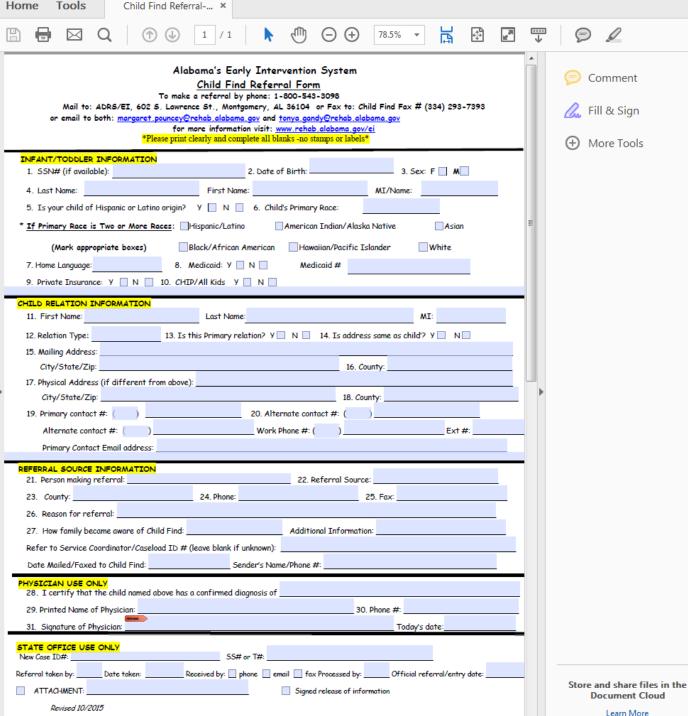




# REFERRAL

- Child Find system for locating potentially eligible infants/toddlers.
- **1**-800-543-3098
  - Anyone can make a referral.
  - Highest referral sources: medical community, families, childcare.
  - Identified through family or professional concerns.
  - Suspected delay or diagnosed condition.





### LETS TAKE A LOOK AT THE EI REFERRAL FORM



# ELIGIBILITY

### Under the age of three years

## 25% or greater delay in one or more of the five developmental areas:

- Physical
- Communication
- Adaptive
- Cognitive
- Social emotional

### Documented diagnosed condition that is likely to result in a developmental delay

- · Down Syndrome
- Prematurity
- Vision
- Hearing



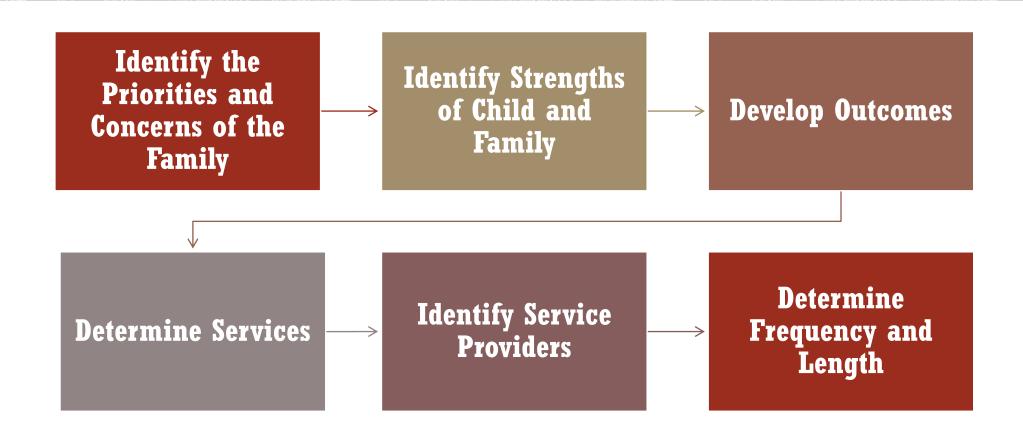
# **Evaluation and Assessment**



- Determines eligibility
- **Determines** service needs
- Conducted in 5 domains:
  - \* Cognitive
  - \* Physical (+ vision & hearing)
  - \* Communication
  - \* Adaptive Behavior
  - \* Social Emotional
- © Conducted by 2 qualified professionals of different disciplines & meeting EI Personnel Standards.
- Using 2 different procedures
- Conducted within 45 calendar days of referral date



# DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP)





# EI PROCESS TIMELINES

- Child Find & Referral
- Evaluation & Assessment
- Voluntary Family Assessment
- Individualized Family Service Plan
- Outcome development
  - Frequency & length
  - Who & where

Services

Reviews

Transition Plan

All within 45 days

Within 30 days

6 Month, Annual, Additional

During the 27 month





**Family-Centered** 

**Developmentally Appropriate** 

Individualized

Natural Environments

Train/Equip Families/Caregivers

Collaborative

Based on the Routines of the Family

**Evidence-Based Practices** 

# 1. FAMILY CENTERED PRACTICES

Support	Support families in their role as parent/caregivers.
Empower	Empower families to make a developmental difference for their child in their daily routines.
Strengthen	Strengthen child, parent and family functioning
Build	Build family capacity

# 2. DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE

Meeting your child where they are developmentally and implementing practices that facilitate learning and development

Assist with understanding typical development and how your child is likely to develop based on factors of medical diagnosis or delay

Coaching, training and frequent practice is offered and required for families while providing services and in-between services with consideration for the projected developmental track of an individual child



IFSP should include individualized outcomes based on the needs and priorities of the child & family

-

Services and supports should be individualized to meet the needs of the child/family outcomes

T

Frequency and length should change, based on the growth and development of the child and progress made towards meeting outcomes

# 4. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Services provided where children and families typically are such as home, childcare, playgrounds, etc. and where support is needed

NOT just a location; it includes the daily authentic activities and routines of the family



Effective and ongoing communication

The family is key influencer in their child's development

Teaching caregivers skills they need and emphasizing that frequent practice is needed to assure skill development and retention.

**Encouragement and motivation** 

# 6. COLLABORATIVE







Share responsibility for outcomes

Share information, strategies and interventions

No one can do it alone — must collaborate, communicate and coordinate with other agencies.

# 7. ROUTINES-BASED

Times of day identified by the family that are considered a concern or priority

Routines are activities that happen naturally

Families have their own unique routines or times of the day



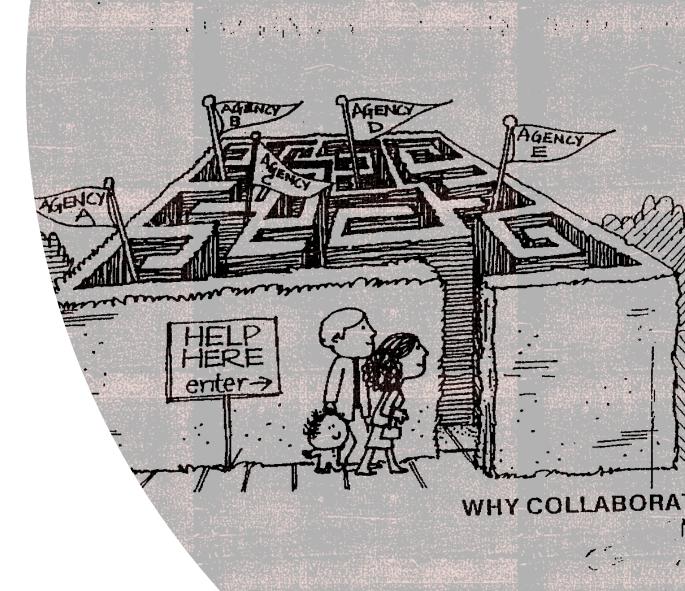
# SEVIDENCE. BASED PRACIES

- Pulls together the best available research
- Knowledge from professional experts
- Data from children and their caregivers
- To identify and provide services, evaluated and proven to achieve outcomes for children and families



# TRANSITION PROCESS

- Introduced to School System
- Educational Needs Discussed
- LEA Explains Parental Rights
- Discuss Additional Information Needed
- Families Ask Questions
- Families Decide If They Want to Transition or Opt Out



Making Magic Happen. Eleanor W. Lynch and Patrick J. Harriso

# SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

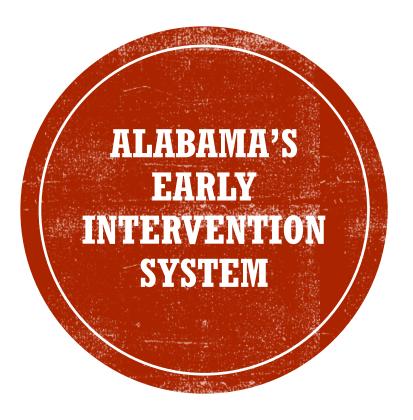
# Part C - EI

- Part C services are voluntary
- Services are provided from birth to the day the child turns 3
- Part C requires an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- IFSP's are reviewed at least every 6 months
- Family participation is required
- Service coordinator is responsible for coordinating all EI services listed on the IFSP

# Part B — School System

- Part B services are mandated & assures all services are available through the local education agencies
- Services are provided from age 3 to 21
- Part B requires an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- IEP's are reviewed annually
- Parents participate in the special education process
- Under Part B, there is not designated service coordinator





http://rehab.alabama.gov/

Child Find Number: 1-800-543-3092

Amy.Blakeney@rehab.alabama.gov
Director

Felicia.Carswell@rehab.alabama.gov
Assistant Director