

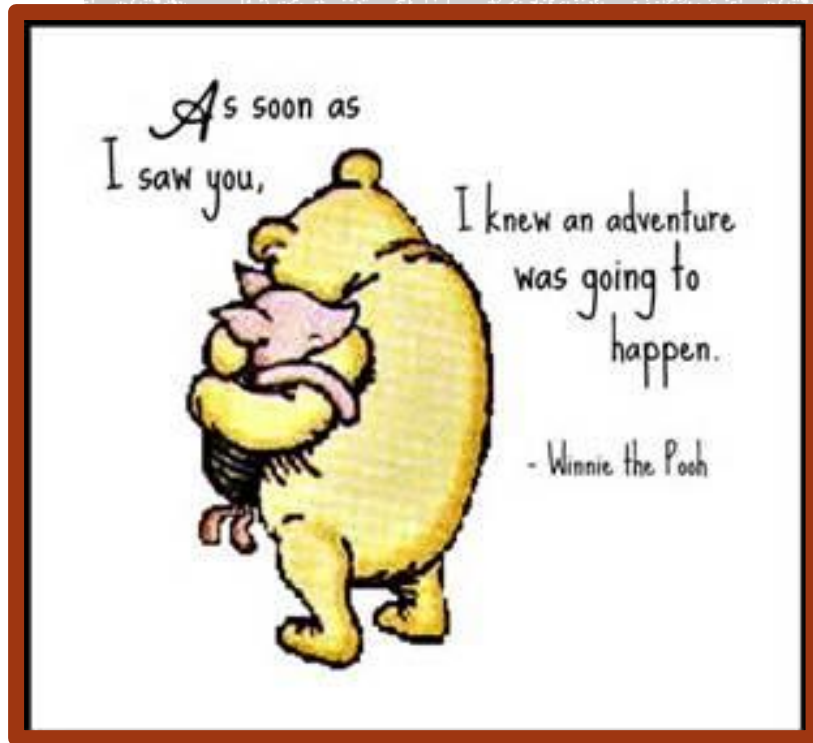
ALABAMA'S EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

101

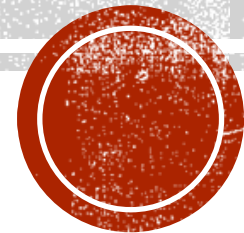
A STEP AHEAD



EARLY INTERVENTION



- **The foundation and history of Early Intervention (Then and Now)**
- **Importance of Early Intervention**
- **Alabama's Early Intervention System (AEIS)**
- **AEIS Timelines**
- **AEIS's 8 Core Values (Our Commitment)**
- **What's Happening in AEIS?**



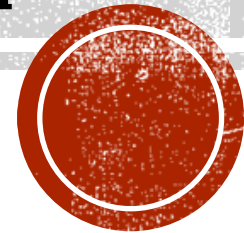
THE FOUNDATION AND HISTORY IS IMPORTANT!

**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**



“A people without the knowledge of their past history,
origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” –Marcus
Garvey

“We are not makers of history. We are made by
history.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EI

Reduce Special
Education Costs

Enhance Capacity of
Families

Enhance Development of
Infants & Toddlers



Keep Families
Together

Utilize Evidence Based
Practices

Minimize Likelihood for
Institutionalization





**WHAT IS
ALABAMA'S EARLY
INTERVENTION?**

- ✓ **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**

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





***8 CORE VALUES
OF EARLY
INTERVENTION
IN ALABAMA***

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

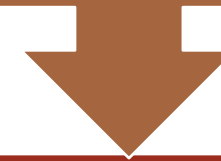


3. INDIVIDUALIZED

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

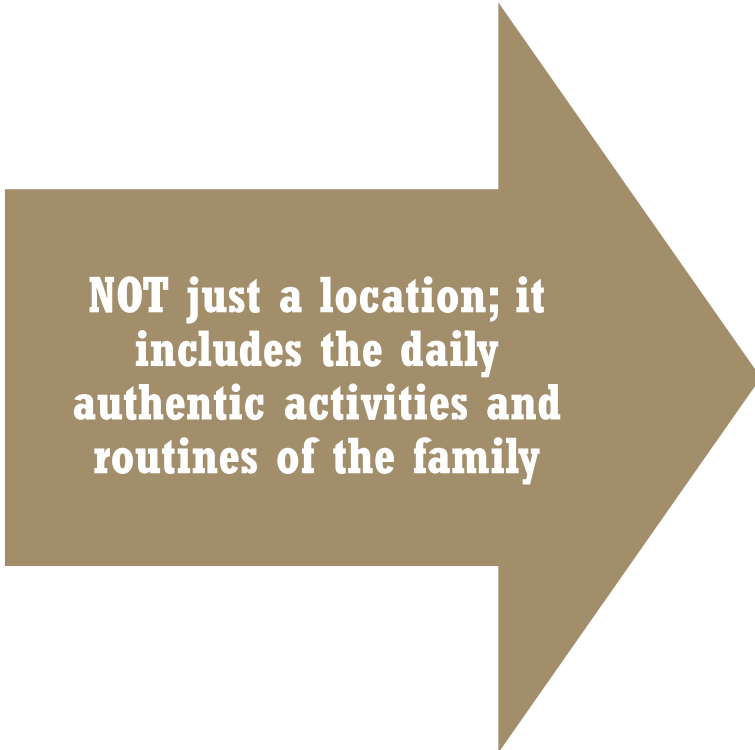


Frequency and length should change, based on the growth and development of the child and progress made towards meeting outcomes


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



5. TRAIN AND EQUIP

Effective and ongoing communication

The *family* is key influencer in their child's development

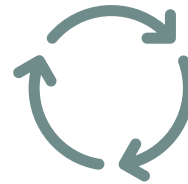
Teaching caregivers skills they need and emphasizing that frequent practice is needed to assure skill development and retention.

Encouragement and motivation

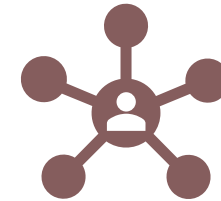
6. COLLABORATIVE



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

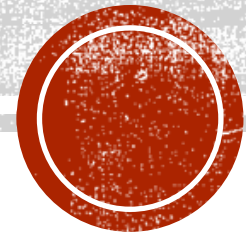
Routines are activities that happen naturally

Families have their own unique routines or times of the day



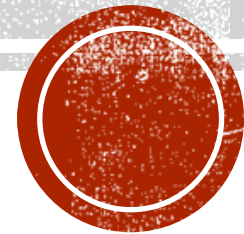
8. EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

- 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



WHAT'S NEW AND IMPROVING IN EI?

- 1. Innovation: Developing a better database system to create accurate data**
- 2. Statewide DEI and Recruitment/Retention**
- 3. Increase stakeholders involvement/public awareness initiatives**
- 4. Support Infant Early Childhood Mental Health initiative**
- 5. Autism Initiative**
- 6. Additional support of our EI programs**





<http://rehab.alabama.gov/>

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Questions?