

# CHAPTER 1 – PRINCIPLES

---

1. Early intervention supports and services are available to all eligible infants and toddlers and their families through the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia regardless of the family's ability to pay.
2. The purpose and focus of early intervention supports and services are to increase the child's participation in family and community activities identified by the family and to support the family in identifying learning opportunities and enhancing their child's development.
3. Consideration of family routines, activities and natural settings occurs throughout the early intervention process from child find, assessment, and delivery of entitled services on through transition from services.
4. Supports and services occur in the context of and are integrated into the normal daily activities, routines and environments of each child and family. Supports and services fit into the family's life and build effectively on the resources and supports already in place.
5. Parents already do things to teach their children everyday – they are the primary agent of change in their child's development and the experts on their child and family. Early intervention service providers add their specialized skills and knowledge and work as a team with the parents and other caregivers to identify and use existing learning opportunities and create new ones as needed to address the outcomes that the family and Part C providers have developed together.
6. Individualized outcomes are relevant for the family, focus on the child's participation in activity settings that are important to the family, and focus on the whole child rather than specific developmental skills.
7. Service delivery options, including specific supports and services, service providers, and locations of service delivery are determined *after* the desired outcomes and potential learning opportunities have been identified. Providers partner with families to make an individualized determination about the supports and services that are necessary to support the child's ability to participate in family and community activities.
8. Service providers use multiple methods, including accommodations, adaptations, coaching with parents/caregivers, and expanding activity settings, to accomplish outcomes.
9. Effective early intervention requires an active parent-provider partnership that includes involvement by the family/caregiver in each early intervention session. The focus is on expanding the parents'/caregivers' confidence and competence to help the child learn during everyday activities.
10. The State Lead Agency for the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia monitors local system status on statewide performance and compliance standards to promote timely and effective early intervention services for all eligible infants, toddlers and families.