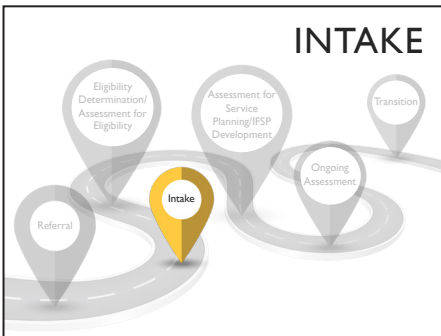


We Are All In This Together: Sharing Difficult Information With Families In Early Intervention



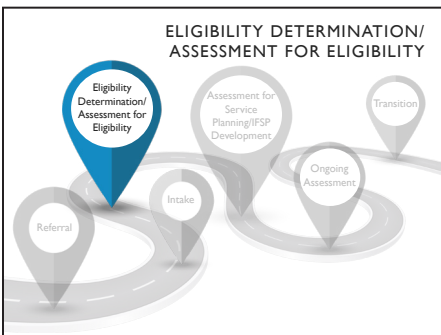
TIPS AT REFERRAL

- Ask what caregivers know about early intervention first to gauge where you need to start.
 - Find out ways to make the parent feel more comfortable throughout the process.
 - Share information in a sensitive manner.
 - Ask families what is important to them.
 - Ask families if it is a good time to talk and indicate how long the call may take.
 - Ensure you have extra time if needed.
 - Remain aware of our own feelings.
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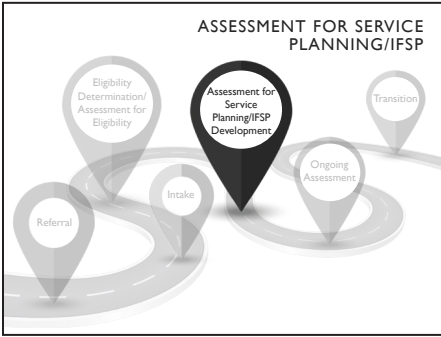
TIPS AT INTAKE

- Remember it is not our job to judge or criticize families for decisions made, family routines, or family dynamics.
 - Be supportive to build a collaborative relationship.
 - Relate to families to help them feel comfortable.
 - Provide research-based information, resources, and support.
 - Build parent's capacity to advocate for their child and family needs.
 - Start a foundation in early intervention that is strong and respectful.
 - Be present in the moment.
 - Prepare families for next steps (i.e. eligibility determination, etc.)
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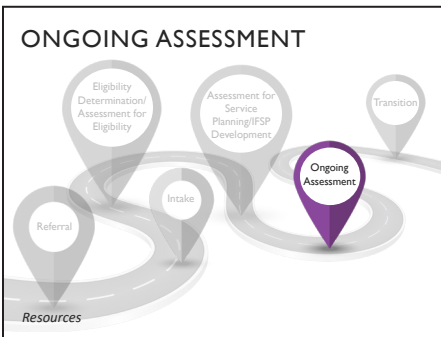
TIPS AT ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION/ASSESSMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY

- Revisit what will occur during this process.
 - Be honest.
 - Discuss child development as a whole.
 - Prepare caregivers for the future.
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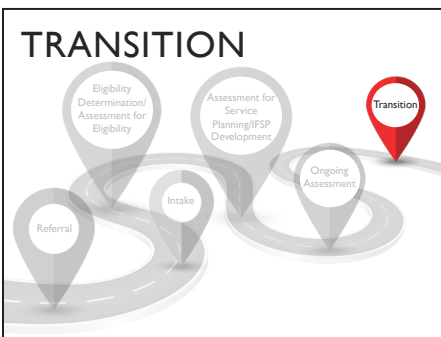
TIPS AT ASSESSMENT FOR SERVICE PLANNING/IFSP DEVELOPMENT

- Inform and prepare caregiver on what to expect.
- Give them time. It's more than paperwork.
- Discuss the child as a whole.
- Build rapport.
- Explain terminology.
- Respect cultural differences.
- Give breaks as needed.



TIPS DURING ONGOING ASSESSMENT

- Check in with the family versus avoiding the discussion.
- Caregivers may be processing a new diagnosis and/or how it is going to impact them as a family.
- The family may be preoccupied with their thoughts.
- Give the space needed to process the information.
- It is ok if a caregiver cries to you ... you do not need to solve it or make him or her feel better.
- Answer any questions from the IFSP or any other reports. Refer to specialist if appropriate.
- Ask if they need more support then you may be able to provide or what assistance they may need in obtaining resources.



TIPS AT TRANSITION

- Start the conversation at the beginning of early intervention.
- Explore all resources and options together.
- Offer to visit other program options with caregivers.