

ITEIP Family Centered Services Principles FRC Training

In Washington, services for infants and toddlers who have developmental delays or disabilities and their families follow the ‘family centered’ precepts of IDEA Part C. Family centered services are services that:

- Recognize that early intervention services are to be provided in a manner that enhances the capacity of families to meet the special needs of their child;
- Recognize that the family is the constant in the life of the child while service systems and service providers change and fluctuate;
- Are provided within the context of the life of the family and the family's natural routines;
- Are individualized to meet the unique needs of each family;
- Ensures that families have the information they need to make good decisions about their child's needs;
- Recognize that families are the decision makers regarding the services and supports provided for them and for their children;
- Are designed around and promote family strengths;
- Facilitate collaboration between families and the professionals who serve them—going beyond just coordinating services;
- Recognize that each family has their own way of coping and addressing the needs of their children;
- Recognize family strengths as building blocks of the child's program;
- Include not only services focused on mitigating the child's disability through educational, therapeutic and medical support, but also includes access to emotional and financial support for the family;
- Encourage networking and support with other families;
- Are built around family-identified priorities and needs;
- Respect the right of the family to decline, postpone and terminate services in Washington 's Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program;
- Honor the racial, ethnic, religious, cultural and socio-economic diversity of families;
- See families as colleagues who bring skills, knowledge and experiences about their child and what will work best for their family.