

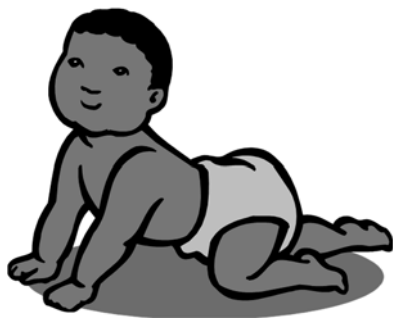
## CHAPTER 4. INFANTS AND TODDLERS WHO REQUIRE SPECIAL EDUCATION

### **The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**

The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) for infants and toddlers (ages birth to 3 years) is a specific plan written with your help and input as the parent. The IFSP is developed to help identify strengths, needs, concerns, and priorities for early intervention services. You are needed to help develop this plan and to share your ideas about your child's special needs, the type of program appropriate to meeting those needs, and the related services the school or agencies will provide to help your child benefit from the educational program. To ensure your child receives the most out of his or her educational program, you need to: develop a partnership with the school or agency; share relevant information about your child's education and development; and monitor your child's progress and keep records. Your observations and suggestions can be a valuable resource to aid your child's progress. You are the single, most important influence on your child's growth and development.

### **How are infant and toddler programs and services provided in this SELPA?**

Since the enactment of the California Early Intervention Services Act (10/1/93), the Solano County SELPA works together with other agencies as part of the Early Start Interagency Network. Providing educational services with active parent involvement can significantly reduce the potential impact of many disabling conditions and positively influence later development when the child reaches school age. North Bay Regional Center is the lead agency for services to children and families under age three in Solano County.



Early education programs provide a continuum of program options provided by a multidisciplinary team to meet the multiple and varied needs of infants and their families. Recognizing the parent as the infant's primary teacher, early education programs include opportunities for the family to receive home visits and to participate in family involvement activities. To the maximum extent appropriate, services will be provided in natural environments including the home and community settings in which children without disabilities participate.

Services from state and local agencies serving infants with exceptional needs and their families are coordinated between the SELPA and North Bay Regional Center.

In the Solano County SELPA, the infant/toddler program is called the Me Too Program and operates as part of California's Interagency Early Start Program. The special education services that are provided through this program are based on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The Me Too Program works in coordination with other agencies to provide early intervention services.

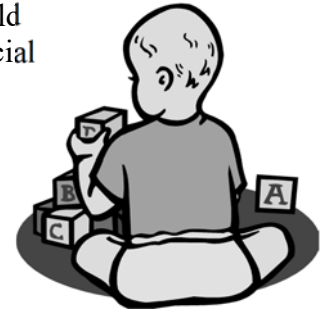
### **To refer an infant/toddler for services, call the Early Start Early Intervention "Warmline" located at North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) at 1-800-646-3268.**

The Warmline will accept referrals up to the child's third birthday. An intake coordinator or an Early Intervention specialist will be assigned and will contact you to discuss your child's and family's needs, which may include a referral to the Me Too Program, if appropriate for your child. The program locations are at T.C. McDaniel Center, 1895 Woolner Avenue,

Fairfield (422-3418) and at the Irene Larsen Center, 1707 California Drive, Vacaville (449.6420).

### **What services are provided by the Me Too Program?**

- Screening and comprehensive developmental assessments by a multidisciplinary educational team.
- Home visit educational programs for the child and child's family.
- Community or center-based classroom educational program for toddlers that includes parent participation and education.
- Speech and language therapy provided through individual and small group sessions and/or parent-child groups.
- Coordination with professionals from other programs and services, such as Child Haven, Easter Seals, North Bay Rehabilitation Services and Solano County Social Services.



### **Services for Parents**

Family-focused services designed to enhance the ability of the family to meet their child's special needs:

- Parent education.
- Parent support groups.
- Community resources referrals.
- Coordination with the Family Resource Center.

### **Eligibility**

Eligibility is based on federal and state criteria. The child must:

- Be from birth to three years of age.
- Be a resident of Solano County (excluding Vallejo, where services are provided through a separate program).
- Exhibit a delay in motor, cognitive, communication, social/emotional, and/or adaptive development of 50% of chronological age in one developmental area or 25% in two or more developmental areas.
- Or - have an established risk condition such as a diagnosis of Down syndrome or cerebral palsy.
- Or - have a low incidence disability such as a visual impairment, a hearing impairment, an orthopedic impairment, or a combination of these disabilities.

### **What is the timeline for developing the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)?**

Within two working days: Identification is made by "primary referral source." Referral is made to the "appropriate public agency" which is North Bay Regional Center Warmline.

Within 45 calendar days: Referral is received by appropriate public agency. Parent is notified of referral and intent to evaluate. Parent consents to initial evaluation and assessment. Evaluation and assessment activities are conducted. Meeting is held to develop initial service IFSP including identification of service coordinator. Parent consents to provision of early intervention services (for the first time). The services will begin on the date designated in the child's IFSP. A periodic review will be conducted at least every six months. Annually, a child's IFSP will be reviewed.



### **What must the IFSP include?**

An IFSP must include the following specific information:

- With the concurrence of the family, a statement of the family's concerns, priorities, and resources related to enhancing the development of the eligible infant or toddler.
- Statement based on evaluation and assessment information of the infant or toddler's present levels of physical development, including fine and gross motor development, vision, hearing and health status; cognitive development; communication development; social or emotional development; and adaptive developments.
- A statement of the developmental outcomes expected to be achieved for the infant or toddler and family when services for the family are related to meeting the special developmental needs of the infant or toddler.
- The criteria, procedures, and timelines used to determine the degree to which progress toward achieving the outcomes is being made and whether modifications or revisions are necessary.
- A statement of the specific early intervention services necessary to meet the unique needs of the infant or toddler, the frequency, intensity, location, initiation date, duration, and method of delivering the services, and ways of providing services in natural environments. The statement shall include a justification of the extent to which services will not be provided in a natural environment.
- A statement of the agency responsible for providing the identified services.
- The name of the service coordinator who shall be responsible for facilitating implementation of the plan and coordinating with other agencies and persons.
- The steps to be taken to ensure transition of the infant or toddler upon reaching three years of age to other appropriate services, and must be started by 30-33 months of age for ongoing clients.