



## FIT Early Intervention Glossary of Terms

**Annual Review:** IFSP team meeting held each year to evaluate and, as appropriate, revise the child's IFSP.

**Assessment** an ongoing process including the use of tests and tools to identify your child's or family's needs and strengths.

**BABYNET** - the statewide information and referral line (1-800-552-8195).

**CME:** A Comprehensive Multi-Disciplinary Evaluation is a group or team of persons responsible for evaluating the abilities and needs of an infant or toddler to determine whether or not the infant or toddler is eligible to receive early intervention and/or related services.

**Child's Record** – is the file that includes evaluations, reports, progress notes and the child's IFSP, which is maintained by the service coordinator.

**Community Partners:** Family, friends, neighbors, church organizations, health care systems, specialized childcare, social services, educational services, and other resources a family needs to care for an infant or toddler with a disability as close to home as possible.

**Consent:** The parent gives permission for the agency(ies) to evaluate the child, provide services, share information with other agencies.

**Cultural Competence:** Respect for the beliefs, interpersonal styles, attitudes, and behaviors both of families who access or are referred to early intervention services and the staff who provide them. Early Intervention policy, administration and practices reflect this competency.

**Developmental Delay:** Any of the disability classifications or conditions which qualifies a child for early intervention services.

**Due Process Hearing** – a hearing involving a hearing officer who rules on evidence related to a disagreement between a parent and an early intervention provider .professional judgment.

**Early Intervention Program:** The point of entry to service coordination for eligible infants and toddlers as identified by each Early Intervention provider via the stat system contract.

**Early Intervention Services:** The early Intervention system contains entitled services and access to other available services designed to meet the developmental needs of each eligible infant or toddler with disabilities and the needs of the family related to enhancing the development of their infant or toddler.

**Entitlement:** Benefits of a program granted by law to persons who fit within the defined eligibility criteria. Entitlement through Early Intervention ACT includes services coordination and development of the (IFSP) Individual Family Services Plan.

**Family:** Parent(s) guardian(s),and/or other person identified by the family.

**IFSP:** The Individual Family Service Plan is a process for providing early intervention services which results in a written plan for the provisions of those services that includes goals, outcomes, location duration and intensity of each service provided.

**IDEA:** The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act: A federal law that establishes the Part C Early Intervention Program for Infant and Toddlers with a disabilities.

**Lead Agency:** The Department of Health, Family Infant Toddler Program is the lead agency appointed and responsible for planning, implementation, and administration of the federal early intervention program and the Early Intervention Act (Part C).

**Mediation** - a way to settle a conflict so that both sides win. Parents and other professionals discuss their differences and, with the help of a trained and independent mediator, reach a settlement that both sides accept.

**Native Language:** Mode of communication normally used by the child's family.

**Natural Environments** – settings that are natural or normal for the child's age peers, who have no disabilities and include the home, childcare and other community settings.

**Outcomes** - statements of changes you want for your child and family that are documented in your IFSP.

in situations where there is no other person to act as parent at the IFSP).

**Referral** - when a parent or professional (with the parent's permission) thinks that a child may benefit from early intervention services and makes contact with CMS (Children's Medical Services) or a local early intervention provider agency.

**Service Coordinator** - a person who works with your family to help coordinate the evaluation, the IFSP and early intervention services as well as other community support and resources for your child and family.

**Special Education** - specially designed instruction and services to meet the education needs of children over the age of three. Provided by the local school district for children who are eligible in preschool or other settings.

**Strategies** - the methods and activities developed to achieve outcomes.  
Strategies are written into the IFSP.

**Transition** - the process of planning for support and services for when your child will leave the Family Infant Toddler Program or if you move to a new community.

**Surrogate Parent**- means the person appointed in accordance with these regulations to represent the eligible child in the IFSP Process when no parent can be identified or located or the child is a ward of the state.  
A surrogate parent has all the rights and responsibilities afforded to a parent under Part C of IDEA.