

YOU AND YOUR SERVICE COORDINATOR: A COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

What is a service coordinator?

A service coordinator is a person on the early intervention team who will work in collaboration with you to seek services for your child and family, to coordinate them with you and other professionals, and to make sure that they are delivered properly. You will begin working with a service coordinator as soon as your child is referred for early intervention services.

Your service coordinator has experience in working with families of children with special needs. He or she has knowledge of families and child development. He or she also knows what services are available in your area and how you can obtain them.

What should I expect from my service coordinator?

Your service coordinator should provide you with the information you need to make decisions about services for your child and family, and assist you in choosing and obtaining these services. He or she can help you decide on the goals you want to work toward for your child, and to plan how this will be done.

Your service coordinator can:

- Arrange your child's assessments and evaluations;
- Help organize and prepare you and the rest of the team to write your Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), and work with you to make any changes in this plan as they are needed.
- Inform you about services available in your community;
- Make sure services you receive are delivered smoothly and properly;
- Tell you about advocacy and support groups, and advocacy organizations; and
- Prepare you and your child for preschool services when your child turns three.

Furthermore, your service coordinator should help you find any other services you may need in addition to the services provided under Part H of the law. Your service coordinator will know about the services available in your community, and help to consider these to decide which would be the best for your child.