

Bridging the Gap Between Home Visiting and *Early On*



Steps to Consider to Increase Collaboration with Families



Consider asking family for consent to share information or to invite their home visitor to the evaluation or Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).



Early On and the home visitor can work to clarify the roles each will fulfill for the family.



If signed consent is in place, explore sharing updates or information between *Early On* and home visiting program.



Joint home visits can be completed based on family preference and program requirements.



Steps to Consider to Increase Collaboration with Community Partners



Reach out to your local *Early On* or home visiting programs to connect, join staff meetings, share what home visiting programs are available in the local community, and/or determine ways to collaborate.



Consider regular meetings between *Early On* and home visiting programs to maintain partnership and develop quality improvement projects.



Connect with community groups such as Great Start Collaborative (GSC), Local Leadership Group (LLG), Local Interagency Collaborating Council (LICC), or Regional Perinatal Quality Collaborative (RPQC).



Consider if there are resources, educational materials, or training opportunities that would be helpful for both home visitors and *Early On* providers (including cross training).



Build robust closed loop referral systems between home visiting programs and *Early On* programs locally.

For *Early On* Providers:

- Ensure that families have choice in which home visiting program will best fit their needs, based on eligibility.
- Invite their home visitor to the evaluation or IFSP.
- Transition families to other home visiting programs if a child does not qualify for *Early On* services or when services are ending.

For *Home Visiting* Providers:

- In partnership with families, refer children to *Early On* if you have concerns of a potential developmental delay.
- Understand established conditions that would automatically qualify a child for *Early On*.
- Ask the family if they are already receiving *Early On* services.
- Share information about the child (with consents) to share with *Early On*.





Collaboration Suggestions from Local Providers

Strategies to Try

- Ask early and often if the family is involved with any other programs/ supports
- Get signed releases from families to communicate between programs
- Partner to cofacilitate playgroups
- Do warm handoffs to introduce new service(s) and provider(s)
- Have regular meetings between program providers to share resources and case conference on shared families
- Ensure there are easy ways to refer to one another's programs
- Explore having ability to access information systems to more easily see IFSP goals and progress
- Join community groups such as Local Leadership Groups, Great Start Collaboratives, etc.
- Ensure there is a 'point' person identified for each program to make lines of communication simplified
- Hold a local collaboration summit for all early childhood providers to meet and connect
- Invite outside providers to IFSP or preschool transition meetings
- Share videos and promotional materials about the other program(s) with families

Benefits of Collaboration

- Home Visiting and *Early On* can work together to help children catch up on developmental delays and keep an eye on progress
- Families participating in both feel more supported as a whole
- Joint home visits are helpful to support the family and also for both organizations to see what the other really does during a home visit
- Both programs may know of different resources to offer the family
- Provides an opportunity to ask the other provider for updated client contact information if you lose touch with the family
- Ability to share community resources and training opportunities with other programs