

# Families provide the foundation for infants and toddlers to grow and learn.

## Parents are active participants in the early intervention process. Parents' responsibilities include:

- Full participation in the IFSP process – working with service providers to plan and carry out goals for their child, and sharing their knowledge and observations with them
- Informing their service coordinator of any issue that may affect their child's services
- Being on time for scheduled appointments and notifying their service provider when they are unable to keep an appointment
- Respecting the people and environments in which services are provided so that all families can benefit from early intervention

## Helpful Resources

The following provide additional information on parents' rights in early intervention. Request copies from the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program.

- *Mediation In the Early Intervention System*
- *Impartial Complaint Resolution Procedures In The Early Intervention System*
- Sections 8-416, Annotated Code of Maryland
- COMAR 13A.13.01
- Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Part 303, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Part 300, Sections 560-577, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- Part 99, Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations

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12/08

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# Parents' Rights

## *In The Early Intervention System*

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services

Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program/Preschool Services

# In The *Early Intervention System*

The cornerstone of Maryland's early intervention system is the collaboration between families and professionals to support the development of infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities. This partnership is the foundation upon which family-centered Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) are developed.

Both Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.B.01, ensure specific rights for parents in the early intervention system. These rights assure that the parents' views and preferences about services to their child and family are heard and respected, and that parents have access to the information they need to play an active role in decision making about delivery of those services.

This brochure briefly describes parents' rights in the early intervention system. Additional resources are listed on the back panel.

## Parents have the right to:

- **Consent to evaluation, assessment, and provision of services.** Parents should receive information to help them make responsible decisions about how their child and family will receive services. Parents have the right to accept or decline any early intervention service in accordance with State law without jeopardizing the provision of other services.
- **Receive notice of their rights and of actions proposed by the early intervention system.** Parents should receive clear, understandable information about their rights. Throughout their involvement in the early intervention system, parents should receive reasonable notice, in their native language, as evaluation and services are begun or a change is proposed.
- **Review their child's early intervention record and request amendment.** Parents are entitled to see their child's early intervention record. If the parents believe the record contains information that is inaccurate or misleading, they may request that the record be amended.
- **Require that personal information be kept confidential.** Parents must agree in writing before any personally identifiable information can be shared with any agency or individual other than those involved with the local Infants and Toddlers Program.
- **File a complaint with the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program.** Parents may file a written complaint with the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program anytime during their participation in the early intervention system if they disagree with: their child's eligibility determination; an evaluation or assessment of their child; provision of services to their child; or their financial obligation for services for their child.
- **Have a formal complaint resolved by an impartial decision maker.** At the parent's request, a mediation session and/or an impartial hearing will be conducted to resolve complaints. For information about these processes, refer to the *Mediation and Impartial Complaint Resolution Procedures* brochures, available from the Maryland Infants and Toddler Program.