

TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR YOUR INFANT'S/TODDLER'S INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP) MEETING

- While at the meeting it is normal to feel overwhelmed. Be willing and prepared to listen, learn, ask questions, and actively participate at the meeting. Your input is necessary, needed and valuable.
- Write a parent report about your child: Think about and write down goals for your child; think about what you wish for your child, right now and in the future. This information will be discussed at your child's IFSP meeting.
- Think about your child's strengths, likes, and weaknesses, routines, transition times, times of frustration.
- Goals should be considered for your "whole" child: social emotional, communication, physical abilities, academics.
- Talk with other parents about their IFSP services.
- Think about your day- where are your questions/frustrations? What areas are the hardest/easiest?
- Invite your GBYS Guide/Core EI Group (EI, Audiologist, TOD/Parent) to the meeting - let your Family Service Coordinator know to invite your Guide/Core EI Group to the IFSP Meeting.
- Dress for success! Wear "Power Clothes."
- Arrive early to the meeting so you don't feel rushed.



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At Your IFSP Meeting, Consider the following:

- Any question is OK to ask at the IFSP Meeting.
- Ask about socialization opportunities for your child and your family.
- Make sure you understand all the goals and are comfortable with what is being put into your child's IFSP.
- It's ok to not understand what someone is saying in a meeting and ask for clarification.
- It's ok to ask your team what kind of experience they have with D/HH children and to ask if they are comfortable/knowledgeable providing services for child.
- Parent training is part of the IFSP. It's ok to ask what kind of training is available for families.
- If you need time to think about the written goals, ask for a copy of the IFSP and take it home to review, then sign and return to your child's Family Service Coordinator there is no requirement that you sign it at the meeting.
- These are just a start! You are an important member of the team and need to make sure you understand and agree with the plan for your child.

After Your Child's IFSP

- If you don't agree with the IFSP as written, you can request an additional meeting.
- Share your concerns in writing.
- If everything is acceptable and you do not communicate your concerns/objections/changes with the team, it will begin to be implemented.
- You should be getting progress reports on a regular basis this would include.
- Communicate regularly with your child's IFSP team.
- Communicate home progress.
- Communicate with your child's teacher/team members any questions/concerns you have.
- Communicate positive feedback (say "thank you") when possible.

Takeaways

- Parents have a role and responsibility in the development of your child's IFSP and should participate as an equal member of the team.
- Building trusting relationship with your child's team is important.
- Keep in mind that parents/professionals experience the IFSP process differently.



What Are All Those Acronyms?

- **IFSP** – Individual Family Service Plan (Birth to 3 years of age)
- **IEP** – Individualized Education Plan (3 to high school graduation)
- **504 Plan** – A plan for accommodations only, not just specialized instruction
- **EI** – Early Intervention
- **FSC** – Family Service Coordinator
- **SLP** – Speech Language Pathologist
- **OT** – Occupational Therapist
- **PT** – Physical Therapist
- **TOD** – Teacher of the Deaf
- **WDE Outreach Consultant** – Wyoming Department of Education Outreach Consultant for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- **D/HH** – Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- **EHDI Program** – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program
- **CDC** – Term for Child Development Center(s) in Wyoming
- **CDS** – Child Development Services (another term for CDC)
- **HV** – Hands & Voices – Parent organization to support families who have a child with hearing loss
- **GBYS** – Guide By Your Side - A program of Hands & Voices that connects trained parent guides to families who have a child recently diagnosed with hearing loss
- **R.E.A.D. Plus Program** (Reading Early Accelerates Development) - A literacy based program of Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices that supports and incorporates book learning strategies (and sing language if chosen) for children who have hearing loss birth through kindergarten age