Rhode Island Early Intervention Policies and Procedures
Services Provided on the Individualized Family Service Plan

Certified EI providers are required to develop policies and procedures to ensure the provision of appropriate services and supports to eligible infant and toddlers. Requirements related to services provided in the Individualized Family Service Plan include:

IFSP Services

- Early Intervention services must be:
  - Developed in collaboration with the family;
  - Provided at no cost to the family and;
  - Designed by the IFSP team
    - to enhance the development of infants/toddlers with special needs and;
    - to enhance the capacity of the parents to meet the special needs of their infants/toddlers with delays or disabilities;
    - to achieve family owned , functional, measureable outcomes on the IFSP which support the child's development in one or more of the following areas:
      - Physical (health, nutrition, motor, vision, and hearing)
      - Cognitive
      - Communication (expressive/receptive)
      - Social and/or emotional
      - Adaptive

- Each EI service must to the maximum extent appropriate be provided in the natural environment for that child. A natural environment means settings that are natural or typical for same-aged peers without a disability. A natural environment may include the home or community settings in which children without developmental delay/disabilities participate**.**
  Early Intervention services are provided in settings other than the natural environments only when early intervention services cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment as determined by the parent and other IFSP team members. A justification as to why an EI service will not be provided in a natural environment must be provided on the IFSP along with a plan for moving the services to a natural environment.
  Providing services in natural environments is about more than the location of services. "Natural environment" implies natural learning opportunities, i.e., the everyday routines and activities in a child's and family's life. Early intervention services in Rhode Island are based on the following: (1) families are the primary recipients of EI services, and (2) children learn through repeated interactions with their environment over time. Services in natural environments focus on functional outcomes within family routines and daily activities.

- Early intervention services must be provided in alignment with Rhode Island Policies and Procedures *Principles and Practices*. A primary

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

provider, team-based approach to working with infants and toddlers and their families is required.

- The provision of services must be documented on the most recent Service Rendered Form (SRF) issued by EOHHS. Documentation of services provided must align with Rhode Island Policies and Procedures *Principles and Practices and* the most recent version of *the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Claim Reimbursement Guidebook for Early Intervention Services.(See* http://www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/eidocs.html)

Early intervention services must be provided by qualified personnel (See Rhode Island Policies and Procedures *Personnel*)

- An early intervention service provider is an entity (public, private, or nonprofit) or an individual that provides EI services for eligible infants or toddlers and their families, whether or not the entity or individual receives federal funds under Part C.
  To the extent appropriate, service providers are responsible for providing EI services in accordance with the IFSP of an eligible infant or toddler by:
  - coaching/supporting parents, other service providers, and representatives of appropriate community agencies to ensure the effective provision of services described in the IFSP,
  - supporting parents, caregivers, and other team members to build their capacity to meet IFSP outcomes,
  - participating in initial and on-going assessment of an infant or toddler to appropriately monitor development in all areas and provide this information to the family.

Specific Early Intervention Services

- Certified EI providers must ensure the family has access to the services required by IDEA when identified on the IFSP. The following list of early intervention services is not intended to comprise an exhaustive list of the types of services that may be provided to an infant or toddler with a disability and his or her family. The list does include those required by Part C of the Act. See the *Rhode Island Medical Assistance Claim Reimbursement Guidebook for Early Intervention Services* for how services are categorized in Rhode Island and reimbursed.

IFSP Services

Assistive Technology Device

- Any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially, off the shelf, modified, or customized and used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of an infant or toddler with a disability. The term does not include a medical

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

device that is surgically implanted, including cochlear implants, or optimization (e.g., mapping), maintenance or replacement of that device

Assistive Technology Service

Any service that directly assists an infant or toddler with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. Assistive technology services include:

- The assessment of the needs of an infant or toddler with a disability, including a functional assessment of the child in the child's customary environment;
- Purchasing, leasing or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices by infants or toddlers with disabilities;
- Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing or replacing assistive technology devices;
- Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;
- Training or technical assistance for an infant or toddler with a disability, or if appropriate that child's family, other caregivers or service providers on the use of assistive technology determined to be appropriate; and
- Collaboration with the family and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant or toddler's IFSP.

Audiology Services

- Identification of children with auditory impairment, using at risk criteria and appropriate audiological screening techniques;
- Determination of the range, nature, and degree of hearing loss and communication functions by use of audiological evaluation procedures;
- Referral for medical and other services necessary for habilitation or rehabilitation of children with auditory impairments;
- Provision of auditory training, aural rehabilitation, speech reading and listening device orientation and training, and other services;
- Provision of services for prevention of hearing loss; and
- Determination of the child's need for individual amplification, including selecting, fitting, and dispensing appropriate listening and vibrotactile devices, and evaluating effectiveness of those devices.

Family Training and Counselling

- Screening, assessment and planned intervention services to address the functional and developmental needs of an infant or toddler with a disability with an emphasis developmental areas including, but not limited to, cognitive processes, communication, motor, behavior and social interaction;
- Provision of services including auditory training, aural rehabilitation, sign language and cued language services, speech

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

reading and listening device orientation and training, and other training to increase the functional communication skills of an infant or toddler with a hearing loss;

- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP;
- Consultation to design or adapt learning environments, activities and materials to enhance learning opportunities for an infant or toddler with a disability; and
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her functional developmental needs and to enhance his or her development.

Health Services

- Services necessary to enable a child to benefit from other EI services during the time the child is receiving the other EI services.
- Includes such services as clean, intermittent catheterization, tracheotomy care, tube feeding, the changing of dressings or colostomy collection bags and other health services; and consultation by physicians with other service providers concerning the special health care needs of eligible children that will need to be addressed in the course of providing other EI services.
- Does not include services that are:
  - Surgical in nature (e.g., cleft palate repair, surgery for club foot or the shunting of hydrocephalus); or purely medical in nature (such as hospitalization for management of congenital heart ailments, or the prescribing of medicine or drugs for any purpose).
  - Devices necessary to control or treat a medical condition.
  - Medical health services (such as immunization and regular "well baby care") that are routinely recommended for all children.

Medical Services

Services only for diagnostic or evaluation purposes provided by licensed physicians to determine a child's developmental status and need for EI services.

Nursing Services

- Collaboration with family members or other service providers who are identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP concerning the special health care needs of the infant or toddler that will impact or need to be addressed during the provision of other early intervention services;
- Assessment of health status for the purpose of providing nursing care, including identification of patterns of human response to

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

actual or potential health problems;

- Provision of nursing care to prevent health problems, restore or improve functioning and promote optimal health and development;
- Administration of medications, treatments, and regimens prescribed by a licensed physician;
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her special health care needs; and
- Provision of such services as clean intermittent catheterization, tracheotomy care, tube feeding, the changing of dressings or colostomy collection bags, and other health services when necessary in order for the infant or toddler to participate in other early intervention services

Nutrition Services:

- Assessment of the nutritional and feeding status of an infant or toddler with a disability related to his or her development including nutritional history and dietary intake; anthropometric, biochemical, and clinical variables; feeding skills and feeding problems; and food habits and food preferences;
- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP;
- Development, implementation and monitoring or appropriate plans to address the nutritional needs of children eligible for early intervention supports and services, based on the findings of individual assessments;
- Referral to community resources to carry out nutritional goals and referrals for community services, health or other professional services, as appropriate; and
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her needs related to nutrition and feeding and to enhance his or her development.

Occupational Therapy Services:

Services to address the functional needs of an infant or toddler with a disability related to adaptive development, adaptive behavior and play, and sensory, motor, and postural development. These services are designed to improve the child's functional ability to perform tasks in home, school, and community settings and include:

- Screening, evaluation, assessment and intervention services to address the functional developmental needs of an infant or toddler with a disability with an emphasis on self-help skills, fine and gross motor development, mobility, sensory integration, behavior, play and oral-motor functioning;

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

- Adaptation of the environment, and selection, design, and fabrication of assistive and orthotic devices to facilitate development and promote the acquisition of functional skills;
- Prevention or minimization of the impact of initial or future impairment, delay in development, or loss of functional ability;
- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP;
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her functional developmental needs and to enhance his or her development.

Physical Therapy Services:
Services to address the promotion of sensorimotor function through enhancement of musculoskeletal status, neurobehavioral organization, perceptual and motor development, cardiopulmonary status, and effective environmental adaptation. These services include:

- Screening, evaluation, assessment and intervention services to address the functional developmental needs of an infant or toddler with a disability with an emphasis on mobility, positioning, fine and gross motor development, and both strength and endurance, including the identification of specific motor disorders;
- Adaptation of the environment, and selection, design, and fabrication of assistive and orthotic devices to facilitate development and promote the acquisition of functional skills;
- Obtaining, interpreting, and integrating information appropriate to program planning to prevent, alleviate, or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems;
- Providing individual and group services or treatment to prevent, alleviate, or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems;
- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP; and
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her functional developmental needs and to enhance his or her development.

Psychological Services:

- Administration of psychological and developmental tests, and other assessment procedures;
- Interpretation of assessment results;
- Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about child behavior, and child and family conditions related to learning, mental health, and development;

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

- Planning and management of a program of psychological services, including psychological counseling for children and parent(s), family counseling, consultation on child development, parent training, and education programs;
- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP; and
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her needs related to development, cognition, behavior or social-emotional functioning and to enhance his or her development.

Service Coordination

Services provided by a service coordinator to assist and enable an eligible infant or toddler and the child's family to receive the rights, procedural safeguards, and services that are required under Part C

At least one service coordinator must be provided for the eligible infant or toddler and the child's family. This service coordinator is responsible for coordinating all services across agency lines, and serving as the single point of contact for carrying out the following activities:

- Assisting parents of eligible children in gaining access to the EI services and other services identified in the individualized family service plan
- Coordinating the provision of EI services and other services (such as medical services for other than diagnostic and evaluation purposes) that the child needs or is being provided
- Facilitating the timely delivery of available services
- Assisting parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities in gaining access to, and coordinating the provision of, the EI services
- Coordinating other services identified in the IFSP that are needed by, or are being provided to, the eligible infant or toddler and that child's family
- Assisting parents of eligible infants and toddlers in gaining access to needed EI services and other services identified in the IFSP, including making referrals to providers for needed services and scheduling appointments
- Coordinating the provision of EI services and other services (such as educational, social, and medical services that are not provided for diagnostic or evaluative purposes)
- Coordinating evaluations and assessments
- Facilitating and participating in the development, review, and evaluation of IFSPs
- Coordinating, facilitating, and monitoring the delivery of services to ensure the timely provision of services
- Conducting follow-up activities to determine appropriate EI services are being provided
- Informing families of their rights and procedural safeguards and

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

related resources
- Facilitating the development of a transition plan to preschool or other services, if appropriate.

Sign language and cued language services
- Teaching sign language, cued language, and auditory/oral language, providing oral transliteration services (such as amplification), and providing sign and cued language interpretation.

Social Work Services:
- Home visits to evaluate a child's living conditions and patterns of parent-child interaction;
- Social or emotional developmental screening and assessment of an infant or toddler within the family context;
- Individual and family-group counseling with parent(s) and other family members, and appropriate social skill-building activities with the infant or toddler and parent(s);
- Intervention to address those problems in a child's and family's living situation (home, community, and any other location where early intervention supports and services are provided) that affect the child's maximum utilization of early intervention supports and services;
- Identification, mobilization, and coordination of community resources and services to en-able the child and family to receive maximum benefit from early intervention supports and services;
- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP; and
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her functional developmental needs and to enhance his or her development.

Special Instruction
- The design of learning environments and activities that promote the infant's or toddler's acquisition of skills in a variety of developmental areas, including cognitive processes and social interaction
- Curriculum planning, including the planned interaction of personnel, materials, and time and space, that leads to achieving the outcomes in the IFSP for the infant or toddler with a disability
- Providing families with information, skills, and support related to enhancing the skill development of the infant or toddler
- Working with the infant or toddler with a disability to enhance the child's development.

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IFSP Services *(continued)*

Speech and Language Pathology Services:

- Screening, identification, assessment and intervention services to address the functional, developmental needs of an infant or toddler with a disability with an emphasis on communication skills, language and speech development, sign language and cued language training and oral motor functioning, including the identification of specific communication disorders;
- Referral for medical or other professional services necessary for the habilitation or rehabilitation of children with communicative or pharyngeal disorders and delays in development of communication skills;
- Provision of services for the habilitation, rehabilitation or prevention of communicative or language disorders and delays in development of communication skills;
- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP; and
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her functional development needs and to enhance his or her development.

Transportation Services

- Transportation and related costs includes the cost of travel (e.g., mileage, or travel by taxi, common carrier or other means) and other costs (e.g., tolls and parking expenses) necessary to enable an eligible child and the child's family to receive EI services**.**

Vision services

- Evaluation and assessment of visual functioning, including diagnosis and appraisal of specific visual disorders, delays, and abilities that effect early childhood development;
- Referral for medical or other professional services necessary for habilitation or rehabilitation of visual functioning disorders, or both;
- Communication skills training, orientation and mobility training for all environments, visual training, and additional training necessary to activate visual motor abilities;
- Collaboration with the family, service coordinator and other early intervention service providers identified on an infant's or toddler's IFSP; and
- Family training, education and support provided to assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in understanding his or her functional development needs and to enhance his or her development**.**

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