



**Missouri First Steps Program
Early Intervention Team (EIT) Definition
Revised July 2014**

Missouri's transdisciplinary service delivery model for early intervention is called Early Intervention Teams. The model includes the following components:

1. **Provider teams** designated by the System Point of Entry (SPOE) to serve a specified area(s) within the SPOE region. Each team must include at least one Service Coordinator (SC) and the disciplines of Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) and Special Instruction (SI).

The SPOE ensures families can be offered a choice of providers with the same discipline unless there is not another qualified provider in that discipline within 30 miles of the family's home.

2. The **Early Intervention Team (EIT)** serves as the primary source of service providers for children and families. Upon referral to First Steps, the SPOE director or designee assigns the family to an EIT serving the geographic area in which the child and family resides. The EIT is allowed to have access to information about the child and family at the time of referral to First Steps, in order for the EIT to (a) assist the SPOE with identifying the provider(s) who will evaluate, assess and/or serve the child and family, and (b) have cross-discipline discussions among providers on the team.
3. **Evaluations and assessments** for Special Instruction, Occupational, Physical, and Speech services are completed by EIT members. The Developmental Assessment of Young Children (**DAYC**) is an evaluation instrument used to assist in determination of eligibility for a child referred due to developmental delay.
4. The Service Coordinator facilitates **eligibility determination**, and if the child is eligible for First Steps, completes all required procedures leading to the **initial IFSP meeting**. EIT providers participating in the evaluation/assessment process are invited to attend the initial IFSP meeting.
5. IFSP services are provided to the child and family using a primary service provider approach where one professional from the EIT is chosen by the IFSP team to serve as the main support to a family, or a **primary provider**. Each EIT member may or may not provide direct services to the child and family.
6. Children requiring services from disciplines other than those represented on the EIT (**ancillary providers**) will receive those services from providers enrolled on the service matrix through the Central Finance Office (CFO). The Service Coordinator should assist

the family in selecting ancillary provider(s) from the matrix. Additionally, these providers should be invited to attend EIT meetings as needed.

7. **Joint visits** are scheduled when the IFSP team has identified the child and/or family's needs require the direct assistance from one of the supporting providers. Joint visits are IFSP team decisions, including the frequency and intensity of the joint visit.
8. After the primary provider is determined by the IFSP team, the remaining EIT members function as a support system to the primary provider through **regularly scheduled EIT meetings** which provide support for providers to exchange professional opinions, strategies, and information about children assigned to EIT. The frequency and length of EIT meetings are determined by the team, based on the needs of the members or the families they serve.

The EI team should not be confused with the IFSP team. While some EIT members provide direct services according to a child's IFSP, meetings held by the EIT are not considered IFSP meetings. Only an official IFSP meeting can increase or decrease services. The official IFSP team consists of additional members beyond EIT members, including the parent and others as requested by the parent, such as Parents as Teachers educator, physician, child care provider, other family members, etc.

9. Missouri implements a concept of **shared service coordination**. Within this concept the Service Coordinator may or may not conduct all service coordination activities. Support staff may conduct those activities associated with data entry and routine paperwork, or a primary provider may conduct those activities associated with coordinating and monitoring the delivery of IFSP services and assisting the family with community resources. The Service Coordinator is primarily responsible for:
 - explaining EIT to the family
 - informing the family of their parental rights
 - obtaining necessary paperwork, including parent signatures
 - facilitating the IFSP development and review
 - facilitating the development of a transition plan prior to the child's third birthday.