

Subject: New First Steps guidance on the web

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Intended Audience: First Steps providers

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New guidance about early intervention services is available on the First Steps website under Chapter 8: Early Intervention Services of the Practice Manual at: <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps/practice-manual>.

While the Practice Manual is primarily intended for Service Coordinators, there are several sections that are relevant to First Steps providers, including:

Chapter 8, Section I: Early Intervention Service Types (pages 4 – 19). This section includes a description of each service type, provider specialty, considerations for assessment and considerations for IFSP meeting discussions.

Chapter 8, Section II - A: Assistive Technology Services & Section II- B: Assistive Technology Devices (pages 20 – 22). These sections include a description of assistive technology services and devices, examples of items considered assistive technology devices for First Steps and examples of items not considered assistive technology devices for First Steps.

Chapter 8, Section II – C: Considerations for Assistive Technology (pages 22 – 27). This section includes considerations for IFSP team meeting discussions, parental consent for assistive technology devices, authorizations for devices and assistive technology ownership.

First Steps providers are encouraged to review the Practice Manual to ensure provider practices are in accordance with current guidance.