



FIRST STEPS BELIEF STATEMENT

Families are Decision Makers and the Child's First Teacher

- Families are fully-informed and supported in making informed decisions about services, supports, and activities.
- Families know their needs best and have the greatest influence on their child's development. Family is forever, providers come and go.
- Families know their child's likes, dislikes, family activities, and routines.
- In the context of raising a child with a disability, families know which of their daily activities flow smoothly and those that are more difficult, and can prioritize their needs.
- The First Steps system should be responsive to family priorities and assist families in building their capacity to meet their child and family's needs.

Contact your local First Steps
System Point of Entry (SPOE) office for
more information by calling toll free:

(866) 583-2392



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Division of Special Education
205 Jefferson St., P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

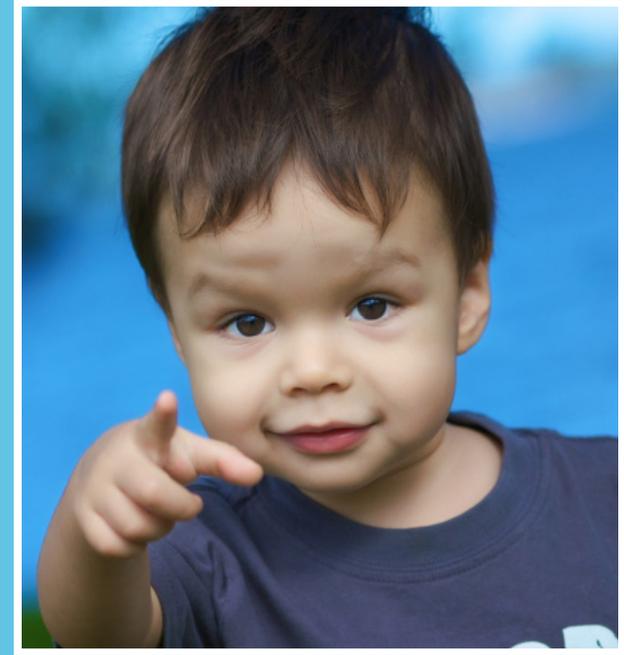
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Website:

<http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps>

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FIRST STEPS

WANTS

YOU!

Interagency Coordinating Council

Missouri First Steps Early Intervention

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Consider serving on a First Steps council

REGIONAL Interagency Coordinating Council (RICC)

STATE Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

The goal of First Steps is to help parents understand their child's special needs and to support them as the primary influence in their child's development. Many parents find that as their child grows, they want to become more involved in local, regional and statewide policy decisions. One way to get involved is to become a parent member of a First Steps Interagency Coordinating Council. There are both regional and state councils, and council members include a variety of people including parents and professionals.

Families can experience the following in council meetings:

- Opportunity to share the perspective of a parent
- Respect for their point of view
- Leadership development
- Help make a difference for other families in First Steps



The RICC exists within each region of the state to assist the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the System Point of Entry (SPOE) with determining the effectiveness of the First Steps system in the region. Members of the RICC serve as a local contact to families, community agencies, and other entities interested in the early intervention system. RICC structure may vary among regions.

Meetings are held quarterly within the region the SPOE serves. Council members share their experiences and opinions to support and improve the First Steps program.

If you currently have a child in the First Steps program or your child previously participated in the First Steps program, then you may be eligible to serve on the RICC.

For more information, please contact your local SPOE office at: (866) 583-2392



“Everyone involved really cares and wants to make sure children are getting the help and services that they need. As parents, we are the best advocates for our children so it’s beneficial to have input from us. I want to do what I can to get the word out about First Steps and what it can do for children.”

- Stacy, RICC parent member

The SICC is a group of people who are appointed by the Governor to advise and assist the First Steps program. Parent members must have a child with special needs age 12 or younger, who received services through First Steps.

Since SICC members are appointed by the Governor, an application must be filed with State of Missouri Boards & Commissions and a thorough background check conducted. Someone can help you complete the application if needed.

Appointed members:

- Serve at the pleasure of the Governor
- Participate in four meetings per year in Jefferson City
- Participate in SICC sub-committees
- Are willing to share experiences and opinions

For more information, contact State of Missouri Boards & Commissions at:

<http://boards.mo.gov/UserPages/Home.aspx>



“I wanted to be involved because our family was greatly impacted by First Steps. I wanted to help the board understand just how much the services meant to families. It is vital for parents to serve on the council so that the real life aspect is represented. I have been amazed at just how much goes into running the First Steps program.”

- Lesley, SICC parent member