



# FIRST STEPS

## MISSOURI'S EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM MODEL

*A Presentation to the SICCC*

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Missouri Department  
of Elementary and Secondary Education

# Rationale for Change

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Missouri moved to a transdisciplinary service delivery model in order to:

- ❑ **Organize** providers as efficiently as possible
- ❑ **Reduce** the number of times the family has to tell their “story”
- ❑ **Utilize** a model that emphasizes how young children learn
- ❑ **Address** the child and family’s functional needs
- ❑ **Recognize** that families’ form a close relationship with a primary service provider



# Timeline

- 2007** – Approximately 900 providers attend 3 workshops by Dr. Robin McWilliam about the RBI and primary provider model
- 2008** – Approximately 18 teams participate in a pilot of the transdisciplinary model
- 2009** – SPOE contracts awarded for all 10 regions with a new requirement to develop and implement teams
- 2010** – All 10 SPOE contractors successfully completed a plan to implement EIT in their regions
- 2011** - As of May, 26% of all families in First Steps are on teams
- 2012** – As of April, 68% of all families in First Steps are on teams



# Early Intervention Team Model

The model includes the following components:

1. Groups of providers who conduct both evaluation and ongoing services
2. Primary provider approach to home visits
3. Ancillary providers who support the team
4. Team meetings



# Composition of Provider Teams

- Are identified and organized by the System Point of Entry (SPOE)
- Serve all or part of a SPOE region
- Consist of at least one of the following disciplines:
  - Service Coordinator
  - Special Instructor
  - Physical Therapist
  - Occupational Therapist
  - Speech & Language Pathologist



# Informing families of the EIT model

- ❑ Parents or guardians will be fully informed about the EIT at the time their family enters the First Steps program, including:
  - ❑ How the model functions;
  - ❑ The make-up of the team; and,
  - ❑ How the EIT will support the child and family.
- ❑ The parent must provide written consent (Notice of Action/Consent form) before services are delivered as described in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).



# Team Functions

- ❑ **Evaluations and assessments** (for OT,PT, SLP and SI) are completed by the members of the team.
- ❑ A primary provider and possibly supporting provider(s) conduct **IFSP services** in the natural environment.
- ❑ **Ancillary providers** are chosen from the matrix to serve individual children as written in the IFSP.
- ❑ **Meetings** held by the EIT are considered planning meetings and provide support for providers to exchange professional opinions, strategies, and information about children assigned to the EIT.



# Primary Provider Approach

- **One professional** from the EIT is chosen by the IFSP team to serve as the main support to the family.
- This professional receives **support and assistance**, as needed, from the other EIT members to address the needs of the child and family.
- Professional support, assistance and expertise is shared during **EIT meetings** and joint home visits, if necessary.
- The primary provider typically does not change as it is the **relationship** between the family and the provider that is the emphasis in intervention.



# What Kind of Support Is Given To Families?

## **Emotional Support**

- Positiveness
- Responsiveness
- Orientation to the whole family
- Friendliness
- Sensitivity

## **Material Support**

- Materials
- Equipment
- Financial resources

## **Informational Support**

- Child's disability
- Resources
- Child development
- What to do with the child

McWilliam, R.A. (2010) *Routines-Based Early Intervention*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

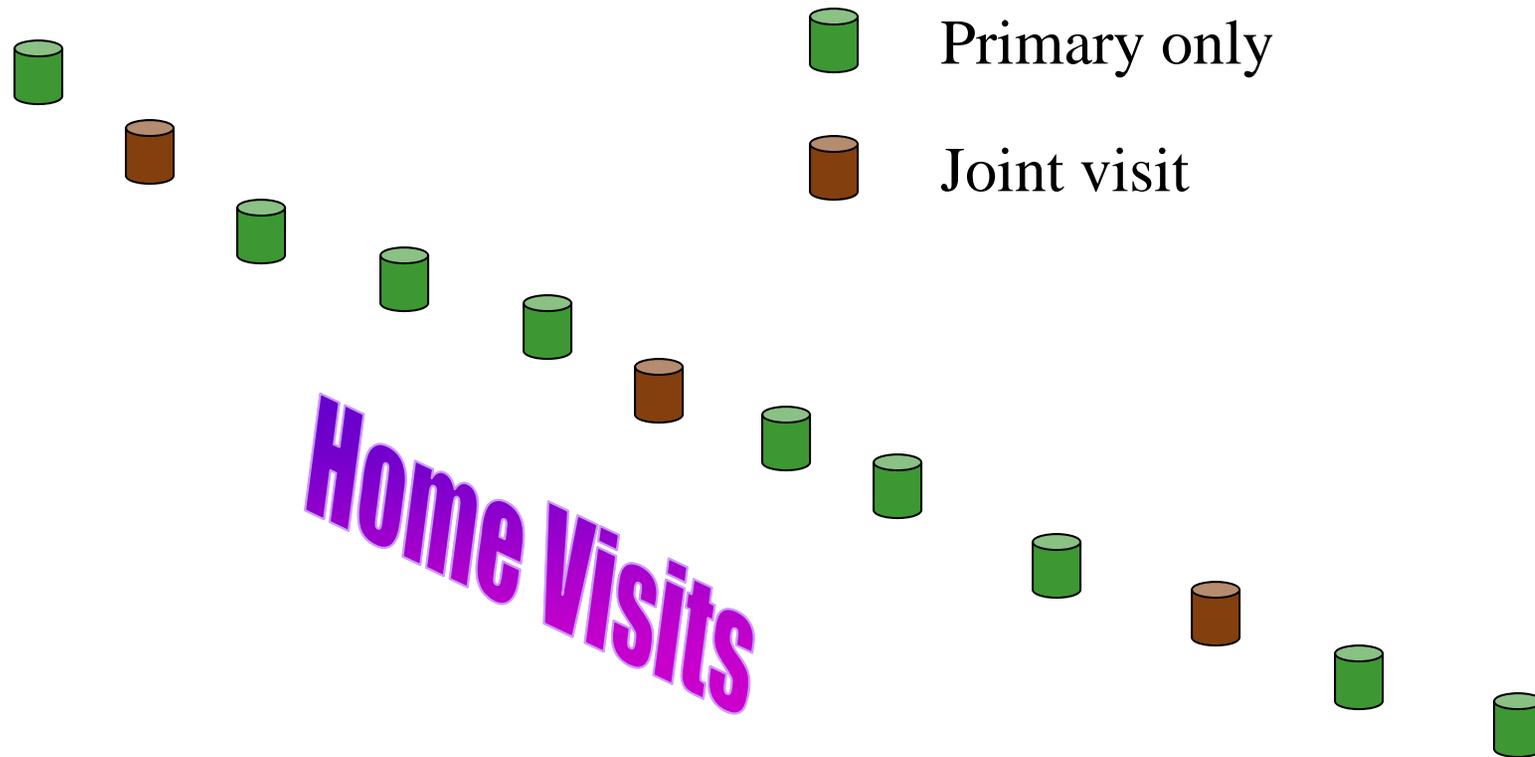


# Joint Home Visits

- When discussion at EIT meetings is not enough to support the primary provider and the parents in addressing all of the child's needs and challenges, then a joint visit may be necessary.
- Joint visits are IFSP team decisions, including the frequency and intensity of the visit.



# Primary Provider Model with Joint Visits



McWilliam, R.A. (2010) *Routines-Based Early Intervention*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.



# At The Joint Home Visit. . .

- **The supporting provider joins the primary to. . .**
  - Conduct assessment(s) through a variety of means
  - Provide intervention suggestions
  - Model and give feedback (as appropriate)
- **The primary provider. . .**
  - Asks questions
  - Ensures the family understands the strategy or suggestion
  - Ensures supporting provider understands the concerns
  - Takes notes
  - Handles interruptions



# Ancillary Providers

- Children requiring service providers from disciplines other than those represented on the EIT (ancillary providers) will receive those services from independent providers enrolled on the service matrix through the Central Finance Office (CFO). Examples might include ABA, audiologist, dietician, nurse, etc.
- The Service Coordinator and the primary provider work with the family when selecting an ancillary provider from the matrix.
- Ancillary providers should be invited to attend EIT meetings when appropriate.



# Services look like. . .

## Traditional Services

- Multiple providers conduct home visits independent of one another.
- Recipient of the service is the child.
- Communication between providers is fragmented and unscheduled.

## Current Services

- One provider conducts home visits more frequently than others, providers may conduct home visits together.
- Recipient of the service is the family.
- Communication between providers is regular and organized.



# Questions?/SPOE Comments



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