



THE PRIMARY SERVICE PROVIDER APPROACH TO TEAMING

Starting **Sept. 1, 2021**, the Strong Start program will use the primary service provider (PSP) and teaming approach – an evidence-based practice for providing early intervention services to children with a developmental delay or disability.

What is the PSP approach to service delivery in early intervention?

The PSP model is used to support families of infants and toddlers in reaching the goals in their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Using this approach, a team of professionals works together to support children, families and caregivers.

One member of the team, serving as the PSP, functions as the primary liaison between the family and other team members. Using a coaching interaction style, the PSP receives consultation from the other team members and interacts with and coaches other team members, the family and caregivers.

What is the coaching interaction style?

Coaching allows the early interventionist to build a family's ability to support their child through new skills and increased confidence. Coaching interactions during early intervention visits help families develop their skills to support and promote their child's growth and development through natural learning opportunities. Coaching during ordinary family routines helps families identify, practice and reflect on strategies and interactions with their children, problem solve and receive supportive feedback.

How is the PSP selected?

The selection of the PSP occurs at the initial IFSP meeting after reviewing the goals, also referred to as the outcome statements. The following is considered when making the decision:

- Your priorities and requests for services, your family dynamics and your availability to participate in early intervention services;
- Your child's diagnosis/condition, specific interests and activity settings in which the child currently participates;
- The natural learning environments of the child and family such as the child's home, community settings or child care settings;
- The professional and personal knowledge and expertise of the early interventionists on the assigned team; and
- Prior relationship with the family and availability of the early interventionists on your child's team.

What does a PSP do?

In addition to providing services, the PSP collaborates and coordinates with the other team members on meeting the IFSP outcomes by meeting regularly to utilize the group's collective skills, experience and expertise.

The child and family should have access to all team members as needed via teaming meetings and joint visits. Joint visits should be conducted if the family requests direct access to another team member, or when the PSP or another team member has questions that can only be answered with direct observation from a non-PSP team member. During a joint visit, a team member may work directly with the child and consult the child's parents, caregivers and PSP. After the joint visit(s), the child's parents and caregivers will receive ongoing support and guidance from the PSP to continue implementing what they've learned during their child's naturally occurring daily routines and activities.

What will happen if I need more help or have questions outside of my PSP's discipline?

Your child will have a team of early interventionists that, at a minimum, includes a physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech-language pathologist and developmental therapist. All members of the team can support each other via teaming meetings or joint visits. Teaming meetings occur when the team meets to discuss your child's case and any challenges or questions that come up. Joint visits occur if a team member, the PSP, or you need additional support.

