

# Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) GUIDING CONCEPTS



## MISSION

The purpose of the Early Support for Infants and Toddlers program is to build upon family strengths by providing coordination, supports, resources and services to enhance the development of children with developmental delays and disabilities through everyday learning opportunities.

## PRINCIPLES

1. Families are equal partners who bring to the team skills, experience and knowledge about their child; and, are the final decision makers as to what will work best for their family.
2. Early intervention recognizes that family relationships are the central focus in the life of an infant or toddler.
3. Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar settings.
4. The early intervention process, from initial contact to transition, must be responsive, flexible and individualized to reflect the child's and family's priorities, learning styles and cultural beliefs.
5. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.
6. The role of the service provider is to work in a team to support Individualized Family Service Plan functional outcomes, based on child and family needs and priorities.
7. Early intervention practices must be based on the best available current evidence and research.

## OUTCOMES

To enable families to care for their child and participate in family and community activities, families will:

- Know their rights.
- Effectively communicate their child's needs.
- Help their child develop and learn.

To help children be active and successful participants in a variety of settings and situations, children will demonstrate improved:

- Positive social-emotional skills and social relationships.
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills including language and communication.
- Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

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[www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/esit)

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DCYF PUBLICATION FS\_0031 | DEL 11-006 (01-2020)



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**