

Identifying Family Needs, Support, and Barriers for More Effective Involvement in Early Intervention Services

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Abstract : The purpose of early intervention (EI) programs and services is to minimize the impact of disability on children ages 0-5 and to reduce future special education costs. This literature review identifies the status of families of children with special needs. Four major themes emerged from this literature review. The first was the family's needs and the expressed desire for services to be obtained or outcomes to be achieved. The second was family support, meaning any information or skills needed to facilitate parents' role as professionals in order to enable them to train and provide their child with the best quality of life. The third theme, barriers, was defined as parents' actions or life circumstances that hindered families in obtaining appropriate EI services. The conclusions derived from the recommendations are that effective parent participation involves careful planning, establishing and maintaining a trusted rapport between parents, and EI providers that understand parents' individual needs and interests, thus motivating effective parent involvement in early intervention programs.

Keywords : early intervention, individuals with disabilities education act, parents, recommendations

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