

Parent Training and Information PTI Nebraska Early Development Network Services (EDN) During a Pandemic

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Today's Agenda

- Early Intervention services
- How services are being impacted during this time
- Federal and State guidance
- Resources

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In Nebraska, the
Early Intervention
program is called the
Early Development
Network program
(EDN)

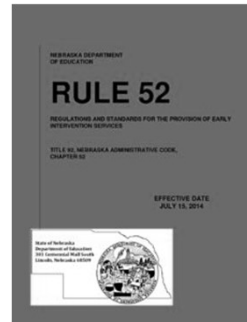


Overseen by:

- Nebraska Department of Education and
- Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

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NEBRASKA REGULATIONS



- Early Intervention Regulations for Nebraska for children birth to age three

- Most recent update – July 15, 2014

Website:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/nderule/provision-of-early-intervention/>

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NEBRASKA REGULATIONS

EDN Services Coordination Regulations 480 NAC 3

- Early Intervention Regulations for Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

- Most recent update – November 26, 2014

Website:

<https://edn.ne.gov/cms/edn-services-coordination-regulations-480-nac-3>

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Federal and State Pandemic Documents

- <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/>
- OSEP Q&A on Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak (March 2020)
- OSEP Supplemental Fact Sheet (March 21, 2020)
- NDE Q&A for Providing Special Education and Early Intervention Services
- Part C/EDN COVID-19 Resources

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Currently...

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Commissioner has recommended that school districts move to an alternative learning environment for the remainder of the 0219-2020 school year.

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Currently...

The NDE has not waived or made any determination that IEPs/IFSPs or special education/early intervention services are 'on hold' or 'suspended' in any way and districts continue to be responsible for services except as determined by the OSEP/NDE Q&A.

The biggest recommendation is that all communication and decisions be documented.

**At this time, Year Round Services are still to be provided.

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Open or Closed?

- If the offices of the state lead agency closes (NDE/DHHS aka Co-Leads) then early intervention services will not need to be provided in the state.
- If the Co-Leads offices are open but the regional early intervention offices are closed due to public health and safety concerns, early intervention services will not be provided in that region.

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If the School District Closes

If the school district is closed and not providing early intervention services via alternative methods, then MDTs and Initial, Periodic (6 month IFSPs) and Annual IFSPs do not need to be completed until the school district reopens.

At reopening, the school district must follow OSEP guidance including determining if compensatory services are needed.

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If the Regional Services Coordination Agency Closes

If the agency providing Services Coordination is closed and not providing early intervention services via alternate methods:

- Ensure referrals are received
- Families provided with an anticipated timeframe as to when the IFSP process will begin
- Initial, periodic and annual IFSPs do not need to be completed until the office reopens
- The school district will need to determine if compensatory services are needed.

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FEATURES OF THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (EDN)

- Local Programs
- Family Centered Services
- Early Intervention model
 - Coaching Model
 - Primary Service Provider Model
- Parental Rights
- Voluntary Program

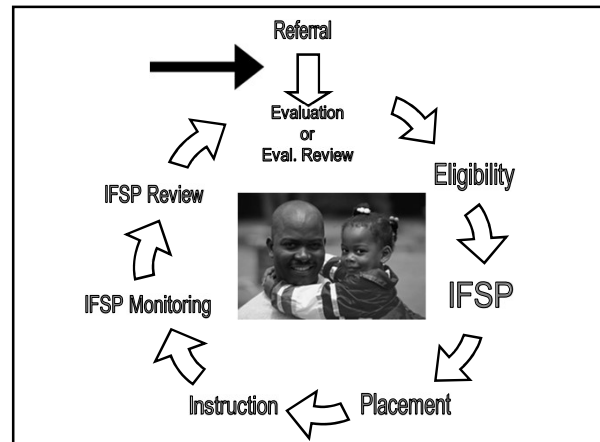
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EARLY INTERVENTION AND THE IFSP

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)

- It is both a process and a written plan. Includes resources, strengths and needs of families
- Builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance infant and toddlers' learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.

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WHO CAN MAKE A REFERRAL?

- Parent
- Doctor
- Child Care Provider

However....parent must sign consent for evaluation.....



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REFERRALS

- Contact your Early Development Network office
- Contact your local school
- Contact your child's teacher
- Contact PTI Nebraska

There should be no wrong number - all contacts should get you to the Early Development Network office in your area.



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IMPORTANT PROCEDURAL PROCESS

From the date of the referral, school districts have **45 calendar days** to complete (Rule 52, Section 006.02A):

- Screening
- Initial assessments of child/family
- Participate in an IFSP meeting

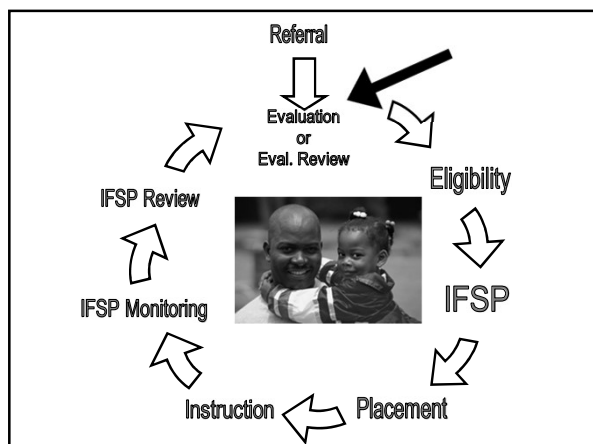
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Temporary Referral Process

The recommendation by the Co-Leads to Services Coordination Office:

- ensures referrals are received
- Make phone contact with families
- Explain that the offices are unable to provide home visits at this time
- evaluation/assessment process will be initiated when restrictions are lifted
- inform families of the anticipated length of time
- contact families periodically to update them on timeline

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IFSP - EVALUATION PROCESS

Screening and/or a Multidisciplinary Evaluation

- A screening may or may not be done to determine if there is a need for evaluation.
**
- Parents can at any time before, during or after a screening request a full multidisciplinary evaluation be conducted for their child.

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Evaluation and Assessment: A Closer Look

Evaluation:

- includes a review of records
- includes evaluation of functioning in all areas—
 - Physical development
 - Communication development
 - Cognitive development
 - Social or emotional development, and
 - Adaptive development
- Assessment of needs*



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Evaluation and Assessment: A Closer Look

Family Assessment:

- Family-directed identification of resources, concerns, and priorities necessary to meet developmental needs of child

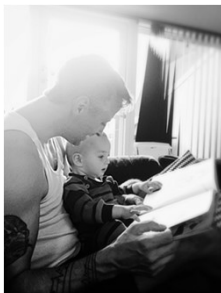


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Evaluation and Assessment: A Closer Look

Sharing family information related to an infant /toddler:

- Family resources, priorities, concerns
- Medical information
- Strengths
- Milestones
- How the infant or toddler plays and interacts with others
- Behavior with family & at day-care
- Other information



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DISABILITY CATEGORIES

• Autism	• Multiple Impairments
• Emotional Disturbance (previously Behavior Disorder)	• Orthopedic Impairments
• Deaf-Blindness	• Other Health Impairment
• Developmental Delay	• Specific Learning Disability
• Hearing Impairment	• Speech-Language Impairment
• Intellectual Disability (previously Mental Handicap)	• Traumatic Brain Injury
	• Visual Impairment including Blindness

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DISABILITY CATEGORIES AND VERIFICATION

- There are 13 disability categories a child might verify under once an evaluation has been completed.
- No disability category provides more services than another. This is just to indicate if the child qualified for services.

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DISABILITY CATEGORIES AND VERIFICATION

- Services are based on each child's individual needs as identified in the evaluation or assessment process.
- Verification Technical Assistance Document: <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/technicalassist/verificationguidelines.pdf>

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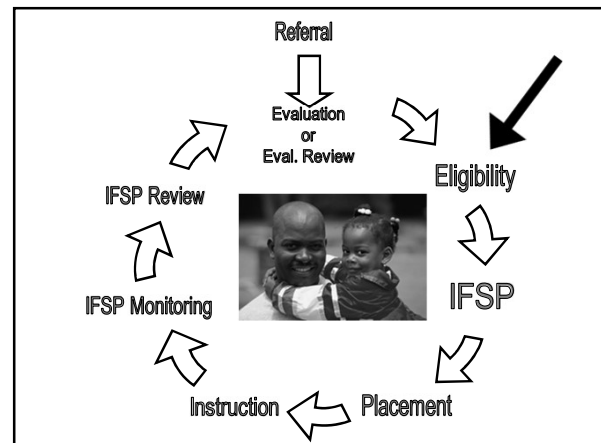
Temporary Evaluation Process

Evaluations will be initiated once the restrictions are lifted.

One exception may be if a child has a diagnosed condition that qualifies them for early intervention services. However:

- School district must agree and be willing to set up an interim IFSP meeting
- Parents must agree to a virtual meeting

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IFSP - ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

The multidisciplinary team (MDT) determines if an infant or toddler is eligible for services.

If you wish to know more about the other verification categories, please refer to Rule 52 or the Verification Guidelines link previously listed.

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IFSP – ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

Parents should and can receive a copy of the MDT report prior to the meeting. (Rule 52, Section 006.10)

- Allows parents time to go over the report and ask questions

Parents need to know and understand what the MDT report states and if they agree with it.

- Why? It is the foundation of everything that comes next (goals/services/placement)
- Parents need to have accurate information to make informed decisions

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IFSP – ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

If you as the parent disagree with the MDT evaluation or disagree with the decision on eligibility, you have the right to:

- Discuss with your IFSP team
- Dispute Resolution (Rule 52, Sections 009.05 to 009.08)
 - Mediation
 - State Complaint
 - Due Process

Parental Right

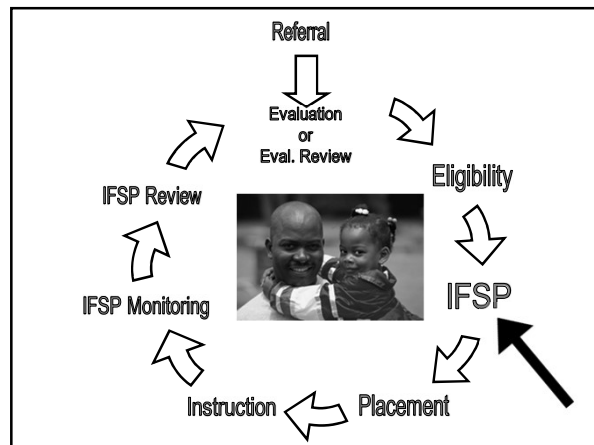
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If the evaluation is complete but there hasn't been a meeting

If the evaluation of the infant/toddler and family assessment was completed but the initial MDT/IFSP meeting has not taken place:

The recommendation is that the MDT/IFSP meeting be conducted via technology if the parent agrees.

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THE IFSP



- Written document
- Based on the evaluation
- Lists services the child and family need
- States how services are provided
- Measurable results (Outcomes) expected

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IFSP WRITTEN DOCUMENT

The IFSP is a plan on how your child's early intervention program will be carried out.

- Changes with child, not written in stone
- Meetings (minimum):
 - IFSP – every six months (annual/periodic)
 - Parents or school can call an IFSP meeting as needed
- **All services, goals, accommodations, modifications, behavior plans, etc., must be recorded in the IFSP.**

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IFSP TEAM

Parent

Family members

Advocate

Service coordinator



Evaluator

Service providers

School District Rep

Others?

Who participates in the initial and annual IFSP meeting?

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SERVICES COORDINATOR

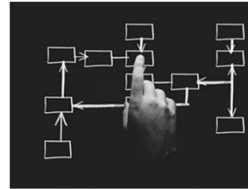
A Services Coordinator assists families of children with special needs below the age of three:



- Find services to meet developmental, educational, financial, health care, child care, respite care and other needs;
- Link with needed services

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SERVICES COORDINATOR



- Work with multiple providers to make sure services are provided as needed;
- Help parents become coordinators of services for their own children in the future.

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SERVICES COORDINATOR



- Assist in obtaining access to needed services
- Make referrals for needed services and scheduling appointments
- Coordinate services
- Coordinate screenings/testing

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SERVICES COORDINATOR

- Facilitate/participate in the development, review and evaluation of IFSPs
- Inform parents of their rights
- Facilitate the development of a transition plan to preschool or other services

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INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP) FORM

Documents the following:

- your child's individual needs and strengths
- Your family's concerns and priorities
- Your child's current level of development
- Goals you wish to see for your child and your family
- Services
- The transition plan after early intervention

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FAMILY CONCERNS AND DESIRED PRIORITIES

- Family Concerns
- Family Priorities
- Community
- Relatives
- Etc.

DATE	FAMILY CONCERNS AND DESIRED PRIORITIES

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OUTCOMES

- Observable behaviors or products the team wishes to see or have in place in 6 months.
- Not helpful to write outcomes as "improvements" or "increases" in specific behaviors.
- Not a description or listing of services to be provided

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OUTCOMES

- Wording is reflective of the family's understanding of the outcome and reflecting the family's words and wants.
- Can assist families in knowing where their child is at in their development and develop a path to achieve goals important to the family.

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OUTCOME PAGE

Progress:

- How often
- By whom
- How measured
- Plan Review
- Date:
How much progress
Next steps/
comments

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IFSP TRANSITION PLAN

- To be used with all transitions
- Plan for the changes

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IFSP TRANSITION PLAN FAMILY CHOICE

- Transition Notice
- Differences between IFSP/IEP
- Special Education or Early Intervention
- Signature

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TRANSITION CONFERENCE

Between 9 months and 90 days before your child turns 3 years old, a transition conference will be held:

- Typically part of a regularly scheduled IFSP meeting
- Discussion on transitioning from early intervention to special education
- Transition goals will be listed on the transition page

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REMAINING IN EARLY INTERVENTION PAST AGE 3

- A description that the IFSP services provided will include an educational component that promotes school readiness and
- Incorporates pre-literacy, language, and numeracy skills for children who are at least 3 years of age

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SERVICES PAGE

- Special considerations for safe transportation?
- Service
 - How often? Where? Group/Individual? Natural Environment?
- Justification statement related to Natural Environments

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Changes Outcomes and/or Service Type, Frequency, Intensity or Duration

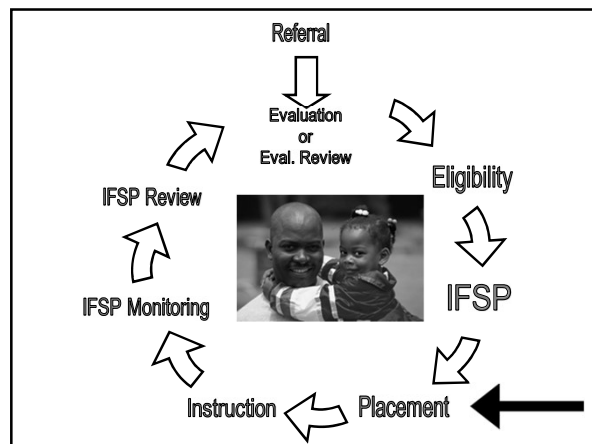
- A Periodic IFSP meeting is required (via alternate means) to make any changes to the services or outcomes.
- The IFSP, with parental consent, serves as the Prior Written Notice.
- If a parent disagrees with the change in services, they can mark this on Page 14 of the IFSP document.

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INFORMED CONSENT PAGE

- Consent is voluntary/may be revoked
- Informed of the IFSP team's decisions
- Can accept/decline any service
- Receive copy of documents
- Signature agreement or disagreement

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PLACEMENT – NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Settings natural or typical for the child's same aged peers who have no disabilities:

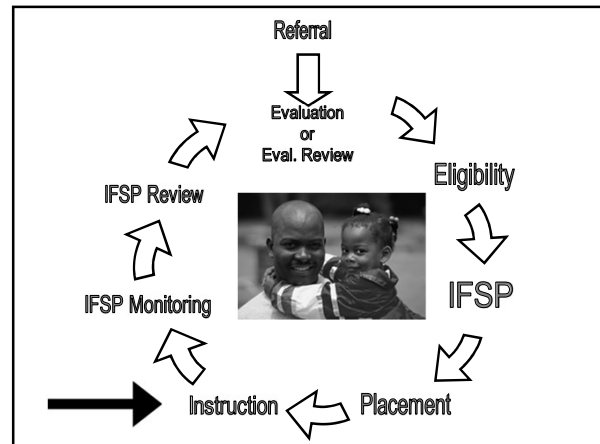
- Home
- Extended family
- Child care
- Community
 - Services can be provided out in the community (i.e. library, restaurant, grocery store)

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Changes to the Services Page About Natural Environment

- The Services Page will need to reflect that the services will be provided in an 'alternate method' as chosen by the parent.
- Services will need to be listed again with the approximate dates for the natural environment setting.
- Talk to your child's EDN Services Coordinator or your child's IFSP team about what alternate method works for you during this time.

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INSTRUCTION

Instruction is carried out by parents and adults (such as child care providers, extended family members). It is designed to be done:

- With support from the team (Primary Service Provider)
- Designed to occur through frequent everyday interactions and learning opportunities
- Can be at home or in the community

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FOCUS ON SERVICES



Help families enhance the learning and development of their child

Assure children participate fully in family and community activities

Maximize naturally occurring learning opportunities

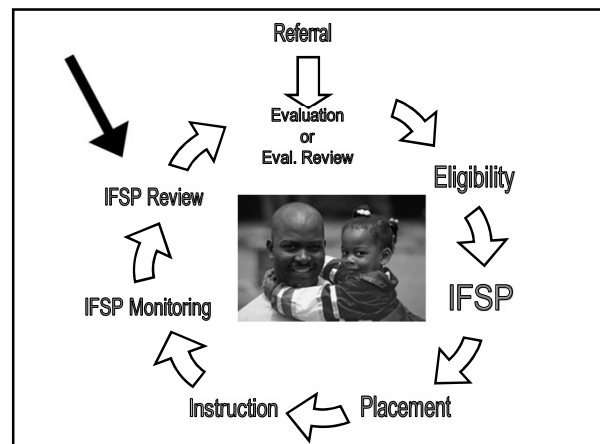
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IFSP – YEAR ROUND SERVICES

Year Round Services are Continuous Services and should be just as frequent in July as in January.

- The only exception is if the family changes the frequency.
- The family/child may remain on an IFSP to August 31 of the school year they turn 3 years old. (Example: If Billy turns 3 in November, he may remain on an IFSP until August 31st of the next year.)
- This allows for continuation of Service Coordination and Year Round Services.

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IFSP REVIEW

IFSPs are rewritten once a year and reviewed every six months. Parents and providers can call for an IFSP meeting at any time.

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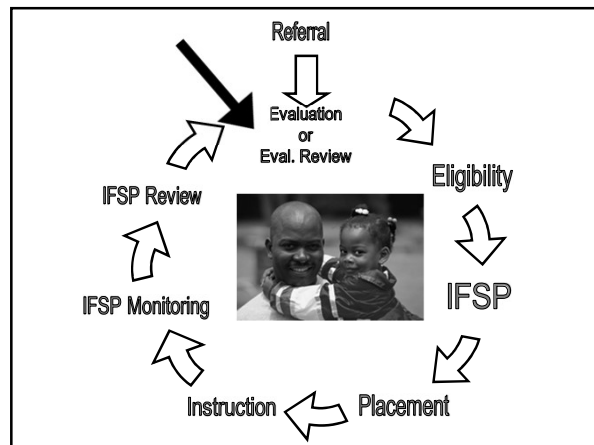
IFSP Meetings (Periodic/Annual)

The recommendation is that meetings are conducted via technology if the parents agree.

If the parent doesn't agree:

- Parents will be advised that services will not be able to continue.
- A written notice will be sent that services will end per parent request.
- Parents informed how to re-contact EDN when they wish to resume services.

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IFSP RE-EVALUATION

- Re-Evaluation for qualification of services occurs every three years.
- IFSP – when exiting early intervention services there may or may not be a full re-evaluation depending on when the last evaluation was completed and how much change is seen in the child.

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Transitioning out of Early Intervention Services

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PARENTAL RIGHTS

- Always try to take issues back to your Services Coordinator/IFSP team
- Request Prior Written Notice whenever there is an agreement to OR refusal of:
 - Identification
 - Evaluation
 - Placement
 - Provisions of Free and Appropriate Public Education

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PARENTAL RIGHTS

Dispute Resolution

- Mediation – by outside third party to try and negotiate a resolution
- State Complaint – goes to Nebraska Department of Education for a review
- Due Process – formal hearing in front of a Hearing Officer

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SUPPORTS/SERVICES

- Early Development Network
 - <http://edn.ne.gov>
- Legal Aid of Nebraska ****
 - <http://www.legalaidofnebraska.org/>
- Nebraska Department of Education, Special Education
 - <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/>
- Nebraska Autism Spectrum Disorders Network
 - <http://www.unl.edu/asdnetwork/home>
- Nebraska Resource and Referral Directory
 - <https://nrrs.ne.gov>
- Parent Training and Information (PTI)
 - <http://www.pti-nebraska.org>

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