

Portage County Birth to Three Guiding Principles

Key Principles:

1. Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts.
 - ★ We believe in serving children in their natural environments and using materials that they already have in their home.
2. All families, with the necessary supports and resources, can enhance their children's learning and development.
3. The primary role of a service provider in early intervention is to work with and support family members and caregivers in children's lives.
4. The early intervention process, from initial contacts through transition, must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child's and family members' preferences, learning styles and cultural beliefs.
 - ★ We believe that every child and family have unique needs that require individualized attention.
5. IFSP outcomes must be functional and based on children's and families' needs and family-identified priorities.
 - ★ We believe that the Routine Based Interview (RBI) is the best tool to identify functional outcomes with families.
 - ★ We believe that the RBI helps build rapport with the families and gives families the opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, and priorities for their child on a daily basis.
6. The family's priorities, needs and interests are addressed most appropriately by a primary provider who represents and receives team and community support.
 - ★ We believe in using a primary coach approach to serving families because we believe in evidence-based practices.
 - ★ "Coaching is an evidence-based adult learning strategy used for interacting with parents and other care providers to recognize what they are already doing that works to support child learning and development as well as building upon existing or new ideas" (Rush & Sheldon, 2008).
7. Interventions with young children and family members must be based on explicit principles, validated practices, best available research, and relevant laws and regulations.