



Child & Family Services

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Professional Interest Section**

August 8, 2024



Child & Family Supports Section Discussion

- ICC Meeting Updates / *Jennifer Owens, RBR Alliance, Inc.*
- First Steps Conference Feedback & Discussion / *Jennifer Owens, RBR Alliance, Inc.*
- DSI State Agency Meeting Debrief / *Kim Amberger-Fledderman, Developmental Services, Inc.*
- Practice Guidance: Natural Environments and Justification for Services Provided Outside of the Natural Environments / *Kim Amberger-Fledderman, Developmental Services, Inc.*
- EIHub Service Logs: Entering DSP Service Logs in the Service Logging Module / *Kim Amberger-Fledderman, Developmental Services, Inc.*



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Practice Guidance: Natural Environments and Justification for Services Provided Outside of the Natural Environment

Date: August 1, 2024

Topic: Natural Environments

Audience: SPOE, Service Coordinators, Provider Agencies, Providers, and Independent Providers

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance related to regulatory expectations regarding natural environments and to provide clarity and practice considerations related to the provision of services within settings that are not natural environments.

Overview

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C¹ mandates that, whenever possible, Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) services take place in natural environments unless the early intervention outcome cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment. If an early intervention service is not provided in a natural environment, a justification must be provided on the IFSP.

Providing services in natural environments is the law, but more importantly, it supports one of the key purposes of early intervention services: to enhance the capacity of the family in facilitating their child's development through natural learning opportunities at home or in community settings where children live, learn, and play. By using activities like mealtime, story time, playing, bath time, etc. that occur in natural settings such as home, childcare, playground as the venue for early intervention, numerous opportunities are provided for the child to learn and practice new skills in the settings in which they will be used. The provision of services in natural settings and in daily routines and activities fosters the use and development of natural supports in a family's social and cultural network, enhancing the child's growth and development while promoting the child and family's full participation in community life.



EIHub Helpdesk:
(877) 522-1065
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Weekdays 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET

EIHub Service Logs Entering DSP Service Logs in the Service Logging Module

To add a service log, you must first open the EIHub home page and select the Service Logging module of EI Hub. (<https://hub.prod.ineihub.com/>)

Tip: Bookmark the site from the home screen after logging in

1. Navigate to the “Rendering Provider Portal”
2. Select “My Active Authorizations” from the menu
 - a. Or “My Inactive Authorizations” if it is the last day of the authorization
3. Search for the child by name, First Steps Child ID, or select the child from the list
4. Click “Enter Visit by Auth”
 - a. The system will open the service log
 - b. The system will auto populate child name on the service log
 - c. The system will auto populate the “Authorization Number” and “Service Type”
5. Enter the date of the visit in the “Date” field
6. Enter the time the visit began in the “Start Time” field
 - a. The system will auto populate the “End Time” field based on the authorized length of visit and the start time entered
 - b. If providing a virtual visit to a child in a different time zone, enter the actual time for the provider
7. Confirm or change the “End Time” field based on the time the visit ended
 - a. The system will not allow the end time to extend past the authorized length of visit
 - b. The system will auto populate the length of the visit in the “Minutes” field
8. Select the location of the child during the visit as the “Location Type” field
9. Enter the exact address of the child’s location during the visit in the “Street Address”, “City”, and “Zip Code” fields



Please use the QR code to take our brief 3 question survey to let us know how we did today!





Thank you!