



National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

August 22, 2023




Partnering with Families to Support Inclusion: Part 2

Host
Jennifer Fung, NCECDTL

Host
Alexis Tarbin, NCPFCE
Lisa Sommella, NCPFCE

1



Presenters


Jennifer Fung

Alexis Tarbin

Lisa Sommella





2




Learning Objectives

1. Identify strategies and resources to support families as they navigate IDEA referral and evaluation
2. Explore how program staff can partner to support family advocacy



3



Viewer's Guide

Check out our Viewer's Guide, designed especially to support your learning during this webinar!

National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

4



Sharing Developmental Concerns & Family Readiness

National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

5

"I have experienced this when sharing ASQ results that showed ongoing concerns over several rescreens. We kept discussing things the family could try at home, and what we were doing in the classroom. Eventually, the family did decide to make a referral with us.

"My oldest daughter needed quite a bit of services and it was difficult. What made it easier at the time was the teachers helping walk us through the steps and using layman's terms during that time for me, since I was unfamiliar with it at the time.

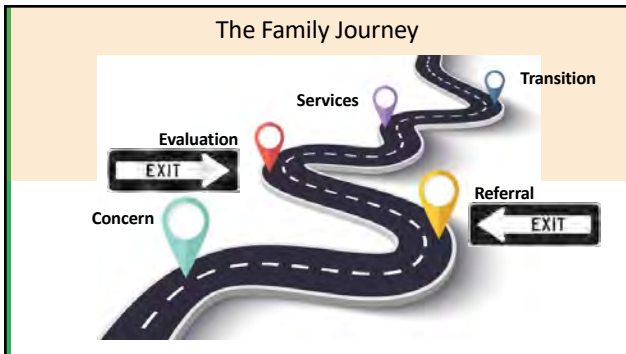
"I have always found it helpful to make a personal connection with families first, then the harder conversations come easier.

National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

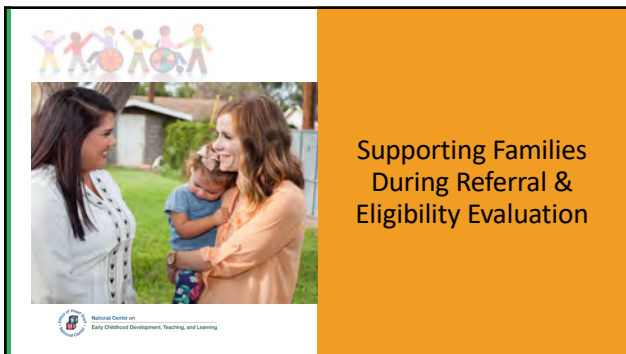
6



7



8

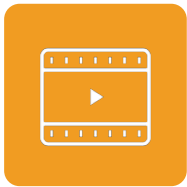


9

Supporting Navigation & Advocacy



10

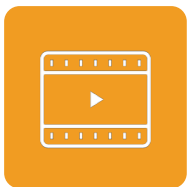


Focus on Families

What questions do families have as they start the referral and evaluation journey?



11



Program Perspective

What do families need to know first about the referral and evaluation process?



12

Navigating the Referral & Eligibility Process

What do families need to know?

- What is IDEA?
- What's going to happen?
- Who's who?
- What are your rights?



13

What is IDEA?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is federal law that guarantees a free and appropriate public education to individuals with disabilities



14

IDEA: What is Eligibility?

Part C (ages 0-3)


- Developmental delay
- Diagnosed physical or mental condition
- Informed clinical opinion

Part B 619 (ages 3-5)

- Developmental delay
- Disability that impacts educational performance




15



Focus on Families
Understanding family concerns about the eligibility evaluation process

National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

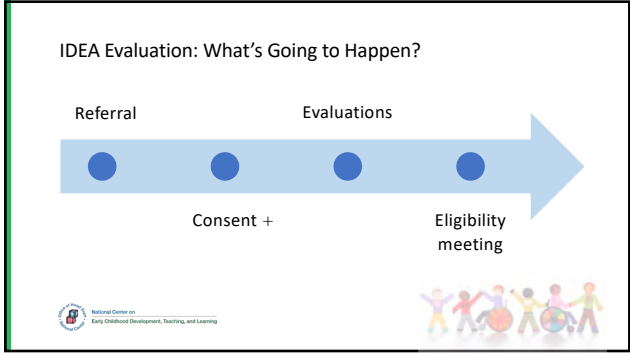
16



Program Perspective
What concerns might a family have?

National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

17



18

IDEA Evaluation: Who's Who?



19

IDEA Evaluation: What Are My Rights?

- Confidentiality
- Procedural safeguards
- Prior Written Notice
- Participation in meetings
- Preferred language or mode of communication
- Informed consent



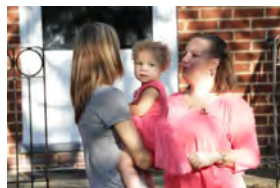
 National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning



20

IDEA Evaluation: Staff Strategies


- Obtain consent
- Determine questions & need for support
- Provide information & resources
- Collaborate to support participation
- Connect with other families



 National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning




21 ,





Program Perspectives


What role can program staff play during the referral and evaluation process?



22



Supporting Families as Advocates




23

Benefits of Advocacy




- Influence child learning
- Positive role models to others
- Driving force for creating change

24



Focus on Families
Importance of advocacy



25

Strategies for Advocacy

- Plan** → **Plan.** Create a vision, develop goals and a plan for how to reach those goals.
- Lead** → **Lead by example.** Act as a role model and hold yourself to high standards, such as being fair and honest and following through with commitments.
- Communicate** → **Communicate and actively listen.** Use two-way communication without interrupting, and make your points clearly and clearly.
- Negotiate** → **Negotiate.** Include everyone in making decisions when possible, but be able to make the final decision when necessary.
- Value** → **Value feelings.** Understand and manage your own emotions, and recognize and value the emotions of other people.
- Motivate** → **Motivate and inspire others.** Engage people in ways that boost their enthusiasm and confidence about completing a task or achieving a goal.
- Be Positive** → **Be positive and flexible.** Maintain a positive attitude by staying upbeat and optimistic. Be able to adjust and adapt when things do not go as planned.
- Accept** → **Accept mistakes.** See mistakes as an opportunity for growth and learning.




26



Focus on Families
Supporting families as they develop advocacy skills




27 ,



Program Perspective

How do Head Start staff partner with families as they grow their advocacy skills?



28





Strategies for Growing Family Advocates

Meet families where they're at:


- Convenient meeting times for families
- Clear communication
- Jargon free information
- Focus on family aspirations
- Listen to families
- Reflect with families what is important to them and what changes they want to see



29

IDEA Eligibility Determination



30

What if My Child is Eligible for IDEA?

Part C (ages 0-3)

- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Focused on family and child outcomes
- Services to help family enhance development of child

Part B 619 Program (ages 3-5)

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Focused on child outcomes
- Services targeted to child's educational needs



31



Questions and Answers



 National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

32



Thank You!

Join Us For Our Next Episode!

February 13, 2024
3-4pm ET

 National Center on
Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning

33
