

Primary Service Provider

What is it?

One member of the team, serving as the primary service provider (PSP), functions as the primary connection between the family and other team members. The primary service provider receives consultation as a way to interact with and teach other team members, including the family and caregivers.



The goal of the PSP approach is to build the capacity of parents and care providers to support their child through increased confidence and competence, and to promote the child's growth and development through natural learning opportunities.

All team members attend regular meetings in order to provide and receive colleague-to-colleague consultation, and to ensure that the child and family are making progress toward all IFSP outcomes. The child and family should have access to all team members as needed via team meetings and joint visits.

How is the primary service provider chosen?

The person selected to be the primary service provider is a member of the team who is the best possible match for a family. When considering who should be the primary provider, the best vision of the long-term view is very important. It should incorporate all outcomes that the family has prioritized and take into account what is known about conditions, diagnoses, and specific developmental disabilities. The long-term trajectory assists the team in choosing the best person available for the duration of the family's involvement with the program and decreases the likelihood of needing to change the primary service provider as priorities and outcomes change.

Shelden ML, Rush DR. The Early Intervention Teaming Handbook: A Primary Service Provider Approach. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co; 2012.

