






Early Intervention Services: What's in an IFSP?

The IFSP, or **Individualized Family Service Plan**, is a legal document written by parents and your local Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP). It is an agreement between you and your IFSP team about your **child's development**, **what is important** to your family, your **child's strengths and needs**, the **outcomes** you and the IFSP team want to have, and the **services** that will be provided to your family to support these outcomes.

IFSP Child and Family Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Includes contact information for your service coordinator, guides you in setting priorities for your child and family, coordinates services and supports, and more. Your service coordinator is the best person to contact if you have questions about your child's IFSP!
Health Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Share information - including health concerns – you or your child's doctor have about your child's development and care.
Developmental Evaluation 	<p style="text-align: center;">This determines your child's eligibility for MITP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Your service coordinator may use evaluations you have already had done; MITP may also do their own evaluations to see how your child plays and learns (cognitive skills), uses and understands language (communication skills), expresses emotions and interacts with others (social-emotional skills), feeds and dresses themselves (adaptive skills), and uses hands/moves body (fine/gross motor skills).
My Child and Family Story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Because early intervention services are meant to support your child's success in everyday home and community activities, it's important to know your child's abilities in these settings. 
Present Levels of Functional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You and the team will consider how your child is functioning in several areas compared to children of the same age.

<p>Child Outcomes Summary (COS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The COS is done by the IFSP team to understand your child’s strengths and needs in three areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Developing positive social skills and relationships ➤ Acquiring and using knowledge and skills ➤ Using appropriate behaviors to meet needs ➤ More about the COS: Child Outcome Summary and Understanding the 3 COS Outcomes
<p>Child and Family Outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This section helps the team know what daily activities are important to your family and identify ways to help you work with your child on any skills they need support with. ➤ MITP supports the adults that interact with your child. ➤ The activities you focus on as outcomes serve as a measure of your child's progress.
<p>Summary of Early Intervention Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This section lists who does what and for how long. ➤ These services help your child reach the outcomes listed above. 
<p>Transition Planning</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before your child turns 3, the IFSP team needs to determine whether your child is eligible for preschool special education (PSSE) and related services. ➤ A transition planning meeting with your team must happen no less than 90 days (but no more than 9 months) before your child turns 3.
<p>Families Have a Choice</p>	<p>It is important that you understand your options before making this decision – see the resources at the bottom of this page!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If your child is eligible for PSSE, you have a choice for what happens when they turn 3. They can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Receive early intervention services through an extended IFSP or ➤ Start PSSE services through an IEP.
<p>Authorizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You must provide informed written consent before services begin, at every review meeting, and any time the IFSP is changed. ➤ You can also – but do not have to – provide written consent to allow MITP to bill your child’s Medicaid (if they qualify) for services provided to your child. ➤ It is important to read all documents and ask questions if there is anything that’s confusing! 
<p>Prior Written Notice (PWN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PWN is a document given to families whenever the IFSP team is proposing, refusing, about to start, or about to change early intervention services.

Source: [A Family Guide to Understanding the IFSP](#)

Resources regarding Family Choice: [A Family Guide to When Your Child in Early Intervention Turns Three](#) & [Extended IFSP vs IEP](#)