

FAMILY'S RIGHT TO DISAGREE

If you disagree with any of the recommendations made for your child, or think that your child is not receiving the services needed, or if you think the law is not being followed or your rights have been violated, you have a right to voice your concerns and be heard.

When you disagree, you have the following options:

Work it Out Informally

You may try to work the problem out informally by meeting with your service coordinator and/or your IFSP Team.

- or -

Request Mediation

You may choose Mediation which is a voluntary process where a neutral third party helps the parents and providers resolve disagreements. Mediation is free. Call 1-800-8RESOLVE.

- or -

File a Complaint

You have the right to file a written complaint with the Michigan Department of Education or your local intermediate school district and have your complaint investigated. You can call the Michigan Department of Education at 1-517-373-0924 or go to www.1800EARLYON.org to find sample letters to write.

- or -

Request a Due Process Hearing

You have the right to request a due process hearing. You may choose to have your service coordinator help you with this request, or contact the Michigan Department of Education at 1-517-373-0924 or Early On at 1-800-EARLY-ON.

Local Contact Information

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A Part of Michigan's Great Start Initiative

Early On...

Your Family Has Rights!



You have rights!

Family's Right to Services

If you think your child needs extra help, all areas of your child's development will be considered in a free evaluation.

Family's Right to Service Coordination

If, based on your child's evaluation, your child qualifies for Early On, a "service coordinator" will be assigned, at no cost to you, to help you plan supports and activities for your child. A service coordinator is someone who knows about and has worked with children with developmental delays.

Family's Right to Participate

As a family you are part of an Early On Team and you have the right to work together with the team as an equal partner to decide the services/activities your child needs.

Family's Right to a Plan

Within 45 days after contacting Early On, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) must be written by the Early On Team and you must be given a copy. The IFSP must be reviewed at least every 6 months or whenever it needs to be changed. The IFSP must show what is needed to support your child based upon the results of evaluations. At least 90 days before your child turns 3, an IFSP must be written that says what will happen when your child leaves Early On.

Family's Right to Understand

If you do not speak English or if you use sign language or another way to communicate, Early On must talk to you in your own language using communication that you understand.



Family's Right to Give Permission

Early On must tell you all about your child's evaluation and the services recommended for your child. You have the right to say yes or no to the things you feel are important to your child and family.

Family's Right to Support

You may choose to have a member of your family, a friend, or an advocate as part of your IFSP Team and with you at IFSP meetings. This may help you feel more confident making decisions.

Family's Right to be Told About Changes

You have the right to be told when a change is being made in your child's services. You must be sent a letter before any changes are made. You can ask for a meeting to discuss the changes. Nothing can change until you give your permission.

Family's Right to Have Services Provided in Natural Environments

Services for your child must be provided in the places where you and your family spend your time, including places like your home, daycare, parks, and other places where children without special needs also play, learn and grow.



Family's Right to Privacy

No information about you or your family can be given to anyone else without your permission.



Family's Right to Look at Your Child's Records

You may ask to look at your child's or family's records at any time. You have the right to ask for a change if you think something in the record is wrong. You may ask for a copy of the records. You may also ask that someone else look at your records. When your child leaves Early On you can ask that the records be given to you, transferred, or destroyed.