

(1) Good morning, I am Lisa Grotting, the director of the Multnomah Early Childhood Program. (2) Our agency provides services to children birth to age five throughout Multnomah County that encompasses 8 school districts.

MECP currently serves 2600 children with disabilities. 35% of the children receive early intervention, which are children from birth to age three. 65% of the children are age three to age 5, which is early childhood special education.

(3) MECP employs highly qualified staff to serve children and families. All of our teachers and most of related staff have master level degrees. In order to meet the diverse cultural needs of the families MECP serve in Multnomah County we provide interpreters who go into the home with the service provider. We also employ a Latino Community Health Worker who works with families in need of assistance in navigating the medical and educational needs of their child and family. We also strive to employ bicultural and bilingual staff.

In the MECP model, one professional is considered the primary service provider who can utilize other related staff for the purpose of consultation, which helps eliminate the duplication of services.

(4) Early Intervention services are provided in childcares, Early Head Start classrooms, but mostly in the home. The home is considered the natural environment

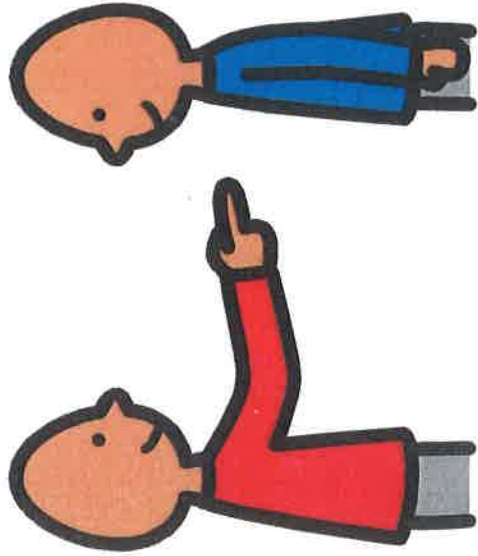
We closely coordinate with the home visiting system in Multnomah county so there is not duplication of services. In Early Intervention, service provider coach and model interventions for the parent. The best investment we have is in parents. Who knows their child better than a parent? No one. The parent spends more time with their child than anyone else. When the service provider works with the parent and child this allows for continuous intervention when the provider is not present in the home.

(5) Research confirms providing services in the home is best practice because:

- Parents know what works best for their family and the opportunities for learning occur during their child's daily routines
- Children learn through repeated interactions
- Stress on family lives is lessened

Next I am going to give you an example of how services are provided for children in Early Intervention (B-3).

(6) This is an example of a speech language pathologist (SLP) going into the home. The SLP talks with the family about success and challenges from the week. The SLP and the parent work as a team. They use toys and items that are in the home to facilitate language development. The SLP models what the play based intervention looks like. The parent then models the intervention back. The parent and child repeat this activity and other activities until the next visit.



Pick a friend



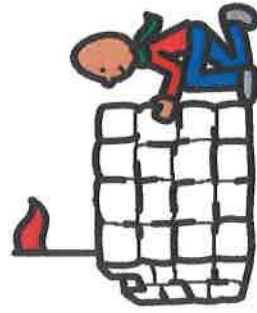
Get blocks



bridge



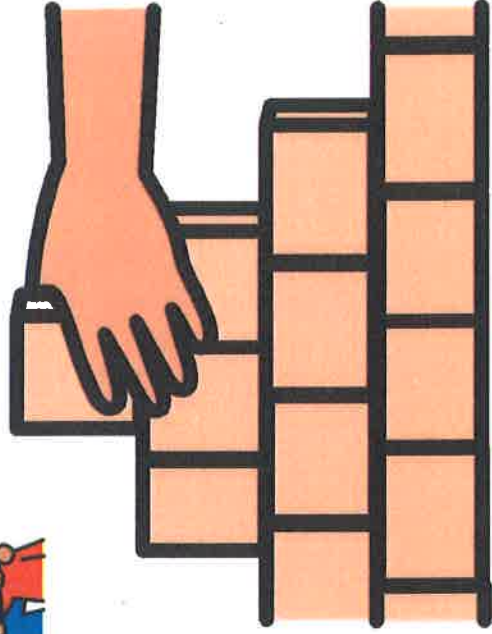
tower



fort



road



Build together