



EARLY INTENSIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION SERVICES (EIBI) INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

HOW DO I KNOW IF EIBI IS THE RIGHT FIT FOR MY CHILD AND OUR FAMILY?

- ◆ EIBI is designed for *children* (age 18 months-8 years) diagnosed with an *Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)* or other neurodevelopmental disorder who have *behavior, social and/or communication needs* that limit access to their natural environments. Thompson Center Staff provide services that include broad skills-based assessments, behavioral assessments, implementer training, and ongoing consultations and follow-up. Thompson Center Staff do not provide direct intervention services to your child, but instead provide training and consultation to the treatment team. The treatment team generally includes parents or other caregivers, family members, and implementers. See the section entitled “Treatment Team” for more information.
- ◆ EIBI requires a *substantial time commitment* from participating families. For EIBI to be successful for your child, you will need to commit a significant amount of time to his/her treatment, including regular meetings with your consultant and treatment team. The number of treatment hours varies for each child, but generally it is recommended that children receive **20-30 hours of intervention per week by a trained member of the treatment team.**
- ◆ EIBI takes a team approach to your child’s growth and development – as a parent/guardian you are a vital component of your child’s team. Children are most successful when they have *caretakers* who:
 - *communicate* openly and frequently with our staff and are receptive to constructive feedback;
 - are willing to *implement staff recommendations* at home;
 - *schedule and attend sessions* and meetings regularly;
 - effectively *manage* a team of implementers (see tip sheet entitled “How to start & Manage a Team” for more information) to work in your home

I WANT MY CHILD TO RECEIVE EIBI SERVICES – WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- ◆ WAITLIST: There is currently a waitlist for our EIBI services. To get your child added to our waitlist, please contact us at 573-884-4660. You will be asked to provide some initial information about your child so we can ensure our EIBI services are appropriate for him/her. Typically, you will be contacted within a few days of your initial call to inform you if your child has been placed on the waitlist, and if so, what the expected wait will be until we are ready to initiate services. During the time your child is on the waitlist, please finalize a funding plan for our services. *Services cannot begin until funding is confirmed.* Many social service agencies or school districts will cover the cost of EIBI services. Ask your child’s case coordinator or school district representative if they can authorize funding for our EIBI services. Our private pay rates may be discussed with the Thompson Center fiscal officers.
- ◆ INTAKE PAPERWORK: Approximately 3 months before we are ready to initiate services, we will contact you regarding intake paperwork. To create an individualized plan for your child, you must complete a large amount of paperwork asking about your child’s developmental history and current difficulties, your family’s medical and social background, and your interactions with your child. *Services cannot begin until this packet is returned* to us. It is critical that you complete all forms in their entirety and with as much detail as possible.

- ◆ INITIAL EVALUATION: After the intake process, your EIBI consultant will contact you to schedule the initial evaluation. During this evaluation, EIBI staff will assess your child's strengths and challenges with regard to behavior, communication, social skills, academic skills, and environmental support needs. You may be asked to provide information during an interview with EIBI staff, or using standardized questionnaires. This information will be used to develop target goals and an intervention plan that is unique to your child. This evaluation may take 12-18 hours, depending on your child's current skill level. After completing this evaluation, your EIBI consultant will prepare a comprehensive assessment report that includes findings, recommendations, and objectives for your child's intervention plan.
- ◆ TEAM MEMBERS: Once you have been notified that your child has been added to the waitlist, start thinking about who will participate in your child's treatment team. After we have contacted you in regards to your intake paperwork, you will need to actively recruit and identify team members. The treatment team may include family members, school personnel, or implementers through First Steps or Boone County Family Resources (if you have been approved for funding from one of these agencies). If you are paying privately or your funding source will not cover the cost of implementers, you will need to hire implementers or you may choose to have family members implement your child's intervention plan. Team members will need to be located and available to schedule the initial training within one month of the initiation of services (i.e., the initial evaluation). If you are unable to assemble a team within one month, your child will be put back on the waitlist. *Please see the document entitled "How to Start & Manage a Team" specific to your funding source for more information.*
- ◆ INITIAL TRAINING: Once a comprehensive intervention plan has been developed for your child, your EIBI consultant will schedule an intensive 3-day training for all team members (including parents or other family members). This training will begin with some lecture and discussion about behavior management strategies, discrete trial teaching techniques, data collection and analysis, and decision-making. Next, your consultant will spend a significant portion of the initial training teaching you and other team members to work with your child, and setting up individualized teaching programs, protocols, and behavior plans. This portion of the training will be very hands-on. The consultant will typically explain a procedure or protocol, demonstrate it with your child, and then supervise you and other team members as they work with your child. By the end of this training, all team members will be able to use the same techniques and approaches while working with your child. The team will also be provided with individualized objectives to work towards with your child. Should you need to add new implementers to your child's team following this initial training, your consultant can schedule a time to provide this same training for the new team member.
- ◆ ONGOING SUPPORT: Following the initial training, your consultant may contact you and/or other team members by phone to review data and offer recommendations. The consultant will also re-visit the entire team in person periodically. The frequency and duration of these consults will be arranged with your consultant in order to best suit the needs of your child. For example, some teams meet every 2 weeks, others every 4 weeks. During these consults, your consultant may observe team members working with your child and offer both general and procedure-specific suggestions. Depending upon your child's progress, your consultant may also provide additional protocols or behavior plans.

- ◆ PROGRESS REPORTS: *Teleconsult Notes* and *Progress Reports* will be provided to you after each session, outlining your child's progress and our recommendations for addressing his/her continuing challenges.

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK BEFORE I GET INVOLVED WITH EIBI....AND AFTER WE'VE BEGUN SERVICES?

- ◆ **WILL MY INSURANCE PLAN COVER EIBI?**
 - Currently EIBI cannot bill medical insurance plans or Medicaid for our services. Many social service agencies or school districts are able to request authorization to assist with funding EIBI services. Ask your child's case coordinator or school district representative if they would be able to authorize funding for our EIBI services. Our private pay rates may be discussed with the Thompson Center fiscal officers.
- ◆ **WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T HAVE A DIAGNOSIS OF ASD?**
 - EIBI staff members have expertise and advanced training to work with the unique challenges and needs of children with ASD. However, some of the behavioral and communication issues we work with occur in non-ASD diagnosed children. Therefore, we can also provide EIBI services to children who do not have an ASD diagnosis, but do have documented delays or concerns in three of the following areas: language (speech, receptive language, or communication), social skills, emotional regulation, behavior, adaptive skills, play skills.
- ◆ **WHAT IS MY ROLE IN THE EIBI? HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED?**
 - A TEAM APPROACH: In addition to scheduled meetings with your consultant, your child needs you and his/her team to be working together, sharing information, and implementing EIBI recommended strategies in your child's natural environments.
 - WEEKLY INTERVENTION HOURS: Although the specific number of intervention hours that a child should receive will vary based on his/her skills, age, school placement, and level of functioning, you should plan to schedule 20-30 hours of intervention each week. Your child needs consistent opportunities to learn new and acceptable ways to behave and communicate.
 - MONITORING PROGRESS WITH DATA: All members of your child's intervention team will need to record data about your child's behaviors and routines at home and report this information back to us. All of this data is necessary to monitor your child's progress and create individualized objectives.
 - MAINTAINING CONSISTENCY: We understand that parents lead busy lives and are often stressed with the demands of work, family, and school...in addition to the challenges of raising a child with ASD. We empathize with these challenges, but it is critical to your child's success that you are responsive to our phone calls and emails, keep all scheduled appointments, and maintain a consistent schedule for your child's intervention sessions. During the first meeting with your consultant, he/she will explain the cancellation and contact policy for EIBI services, and will ask that you sign off on this policy, indicating that you have received it and understand it.

◆ **HOW LONG WILL EIBI SERVICES BE PROVIDED?**

- EIBI services can continue until your child's 8th birthday. As your child approaches that age, your consultant will work with your team to prepare for the transition. Additionally, services may be discontinued before your child's 8th birthday for any of the following reasons:
 - Service limits from the social service agency covering the costs of your EIBI services have been reached
 - Your child no longer requires services
 - Your child is no longer progressing and would be better served through a different program/service

IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR EIBI SERVICES, YOU MAY CALL US AT 573-884-4660.

FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A TREATMENT TEAM FOR YOUR CHILD, OR TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU, PLEASE CONTACT THE THOMPSON CENTER FAMILY RESOURCE SERVICE AT 573-884-6077.