

Six Different Approaches to Service Coordination

1. Co-service Coordination-Parent and provider formally agreeing to share in the responsibilities of the seven functions of service coordination. The options are discussed and the outcome for co-service coordinator is jointly agreed upon.
2. Interim Service Coordination-The program or agency initially and temporarily assigns a person to coordinate services with a family. The length of involvement of this person will vary, but typically it extends from the point of referral through the development or up to the point of development of the IFSP. The responsibility of service coordination is then transferred to another person on the early intervention team.
3. Position Dedicated as Service Coordinator only-The dedicated service coordinator has sole responsibility to carryout service coordinator responsibilities. They do not provide any additional early intervention services. The program or agency may hire the service coordinator directly, or agencies outside the early intervention program may hire the service coordinator to account for possible conflicts of interest.
4. Direct Service Provider as Service Coordinator-A physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech pathologist, teacher, nurse, or other direct service provider working closely with the family acts as both the service coordinator and the service provider.
5. Parent as own Service Coordinator-The parent agrees to take on the functions of service coordination without the assistance of a paid individual from the program or agency. The parents essentially waive their rights to having a service coordinator as specified in Part C of IDEA. The program or agency, however, remains responsible for providing service coordination if needed and must list a service coordinator's name on the IFSP along with documentation of the parent's decision to take on the service coordinator's role.
6. Combination of Models within a Program-A program using more than one approach in the provision of service coordination. Approaches may be varied or blended to best meet program resources and preferences of the families.