

**Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention  
Social Work Practice Guidelines\***

The activities (*in italics*) of a Social Worker, as an IFSP team member\*\*, are defined in the PA Code, Chapter 4226.5. Examples of these activities are given for illustration and **are not** an exhaustive list. When other disciplines such as Psychologist or SI (Special Instructor) Behavior can support or address a need or activity, this is noted. Based on the priorities and concerns of the family, a Social Worker may be recommended by the IFSP team (which includes the family) as a Primary Service Provider, consultant or ongoing service provider.

<b>Social Worker</b>	<b>Service Coordinator***</b>	<b>Collaborators &amp; Support</b>
<p><i>Address the living situation of an infant or toddler <b>that impede the maximum effective use of EI services.</b> The living situation can be the home, community and any center or child care where EI is provided. (Note: SI [Special Instructor] Behavior who has a BSW and experience with young children and families, can do this activity.)</i></p> <p>Examples of these concerns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ domestic violence</li> <li>○ history of child abuse or neglect</li> <li>○ intellectual disability of family members</li> <li>○ isolation</li> <li>○ lack of tangible resources such as food, clothing, shelter</li> <li>○ mental health concerns (such as depression, anxiety)</li> <li>○ substance abuse</li> <li>○ teen parent or grandparent caregiver</li> <li>○ trauma of child or family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assist the family of an infant or toddler with a disability in gaining access to the Early Intervention services and other services identified on the IFSP.</li> <li>○ Assist the family in identifying available service providers and facilitating communication with and between the family and the service provider.</li> <li>○ Communicate with IFSP team members to coordinate and monitor the delivery of Early Intervention services.</li> </ul>	<p>All disciplines can use the principles and practices of Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) to increase their awareness and capacity to support families. Social Workers, Psychologists, Agency Supervisors and personnel with ECMH Certification (from a variety of disciplines) can collaborate with team members about strategies to support families.</p>
<p><i>Identify, mobilize and coordinate community resources and services <b>to enable an infant or toddler and the family to receive maximum benefit from EI services.</b> (Note: SI [Special Instructor] Behavior who has a BSW and experience with young children and families, can do this activity.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Examples of community resources are social support, financial and tangible needs</li> </ul> <p>When the family is receiving social work or counseling services external to Infant Toddler EI (e.g., DHS - Department of Human Services), the EI team (which can include a Social Worker from EI) will collaborate with other case managers to determine the focus of the IFSP outcome and the frequency and duration of EI social work to be provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inform the family of appropriate community resources.</li> <li>○ Identify potential providers of all necessary services and supports, including available community resources, activities and services.</li> <li>○ Facilitate the family/caregiver and infant/toddler's access to health care, community resources, services and funding sources that will enhance the capacity of the family to meet the needs of their infant/toddler with disabilities.</li> <li>○ Monitor the effectiveness of formal and informal supports and services and community resources provided to the infant/toddler and/or the family/caregiver.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All disciplines should respond to families' requests for information about resources, should suggest resources and help the family get the information about resources that they need by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using the Resource Warm Line (215) 731-2040</li> <li>● Contacting the Service Coordinator</li> <li>● If there is a Social Worker on the IFSP team, communicating with the Social Worker about the needed resource</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Assist families to access assistive technology and augmentative devices as needed to support the achievement of outcomes identified on the IFSP.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Prepare a social or emotional developmental assessment of an infant or toddler within the family context. (Note: SI [Special Instructor] Behavior who has a BSW and experience with young children and families, can do this activity.)</i></p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Various assessment formats are used but can include a Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) or a Developmental Behavioral Assessment (DBA) if the SW is associated with an agency authorized to provide services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assess the infant/toddler and the family's service and support needs.</li> <li>○ Reassess service and support needs with the family/caregiver and team on an ongoing basis and make changes as appropriate.</li> <li>○ <b>Update the family assessment at least annually.</b></li> <li>○ <b>Ensure that things that are identified as needs are included on the IFSP for the child and family.</b></li> </ul>	<p>All disciplines can complete an FBA (Functional Behavior Assessment). MCHAT (Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers) can be completed by Service Coordinator at the request of the team, or routinely as part of Initial MDE or for children 16 mos. or older in preparation for the MDE. DBAs (Developmental Behavior Assessment) can be done by designated personnel associated with an agency authorized to provide services for children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder).</p>
<p><i>Provide individual or family or group counseling to the parent and other family members of an infant or toddler. (Note: Psychologist can do this activity.)</i></p> <p>Examples of counseling about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ parenting and behavior concerns</li> <li>○ parent-child relationship concerns</li> <li>○ assistance with medical issues and medical providers</li> <li>○ concern about diagnosis or disability and effect on family life</li> <li>○ difficulty participating in community life</li> </ul> <p><i>Provide appropriate social skill-building activities to the infant or toddler and the infant or toddler's parent.</i></p>	<p>Assist the family in arranging for the infant or toddler with a disability to receive medical and health services, if the services are necessary, and coordinate the provision of Early Intervention services and other services (such as medical services for other than diagnostic and evaluation purposes) that the infant or toddler needs or is being provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All disciplines can address family's concerns about child's social development as part of activities and routines that family prioritizes.</li> <li>○ All disciplines can use the principles and practices of Early Childhood Mental Health to increase their awareness and capacity to support families. Social Workers, Psychologists, Agency Supervisors and personnel with ECMH Certification (from a variety of disciplines) can collaborate with team members about strategies to support families.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Make home visits to evaluate the living conditions of an eligible infant or toddler and patterns of parent-child interaction. (Note: SI [Special Instructor] Behavior who has a BSW and experience with young children and families, can do this activity.)</i></p>	<p>Reassess service and support needs with the family/caregiver and team on an ongoing basis and make changes as appropriate.</p>	<p>All disciplines can use the principles and practices of Early Childhood Mental Health to increase their awareness and capacity to support families. Social Workers, Psychologists, Agency Supervisors and personnel with ECMH Certificate (from a variety of disciplines) can collaborate with team members about strategies to support families.</p>

\*These guidelines do not supersede the child's determination by the multidisciplinary team (based on assessment and observation) and the individualized needs of the child. The intent of these guidelines is to provide information and guidance to the IFSP team members.

\*\*Social Worker addresses specific IFSP outcomes(s), completes all related requirements (e.g., progress monitoring) and is invited to Quarterly and Annual meetings.

\*\*\*Service Coordination activities as per Chapter 4226.52 of the PA Code and OCDEL Announcement EI #09-11.