

The Groden Center Early Intervention Program

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. *What is The Groden Center EIP's treatment philosophy?*** The Groden Center EIP uses an integrated treatment approach, combining the principles of applied behavior analysis or ABA with knowledge of developmental principles. Outcomes for children in the program are individualized and emphasize the acquisition of functional and age-appropriate skills taught in a positive, fun manner. Staff members are trained in their respective disciplines as well as ABA techniques. When working with children and families in play groups and at home, staff utilize reinforcement to promote desired behaviors and to foster communication and play skills. The EI team's work with children may involve use of augmentative communication systems such as picture communication, basic signs and natural gestures, discrete trial training, incidental teaching strategies, structured group activities, and utilizing the child's interests and preferences as a means of motivation.
- 2. *How do I make a referral to the Groden Center EIP?*** Anyone can make a referral to the Groden Center EIP. Most referrals come from parents, physicians and other EI providers. We also have received referrals from relatives and other community agencies. To make a referral, call the Groden Center EIP Program Manager, Carol LaFrance, at 401 525-2380.
- 3. *What's the difference between full-service EIP and specialty EIP at the Groden Center?*** The Groden Center EIP is both a full service EIP and a specialty service EIP. Some families whose children may be developing an autism spectrum disorder or who have similar behavioral challenges and who are already receiving EI services from another EI full-service provider may be referred to the Groden Center Specialty EIP for supplemental services. Other families who have children with suspected or diagnosed developmental delays are referred to the Groden Center EIP for the full complement of EI services including assessment, development of the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), implementation of the IFSP, service coordination, and transition to the local education agency at age 3.
- 4. *What is the relationship between my full-service EIP and the Groden Center Specialty EIP?*** Groden Center Specialty EI services for children who may be on the autism spectrum are designed to supplement the services of the full-service provider, not replace them. Groden EIP staff work collaboratively with the full-service EIP staff and maintain on-going communication through phone calls, joint visits, and shared progress notes. The Groden Center EIP also assists with coordination of care and transitions at age three, as requested. The full-service provider maintains responsibility for case coordination, assessments, development of the Individual Family Service Plan or IFSP, and transitions. Groden EIP services are added to the service summary page of the IFSP.

5. ***How is the Groden Center EIP funded?*** Funding for the RI network of EIPs comes from state and federal funds as well as private health insurance. Services provided by an EIP are billed to a private health insurance, Medicaid and the RI Department of Human Services. The Rhode Island network of EIPs consists of 11 full-service provider programs and specialty provider programs like the Groden Center EIP.

6. ***Who pays for the Groden Center EIP services that my family receives?*** Families do not pay directly for EIP services in RI. Health insurance covers some of the EI services. A law in RI requires private health insurance companies to pay for the first \$5,000 of EI services billed for a child for each year the child is in an early intervention program. Additional funding is coordinated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and comes from state and federal funds.

7. ***What are the qualifications and training of the EIP staff?*** The EIP team members are caring professionals with backgrounds in special education, early childhood education, speech and language pathology, psychology, or occupational therapy and meet the personnel qualifications outlined in the Rhode Island Early Intervention Program Regulations. All staff members have completed the statewide training course in Early Intervention as well as the Groden Center's training program on positive behavior management. On-going supervision is a routine part of the Groden Center EIP.