


## 1.A.8 Scientifically Based Research

### I Policy Index:

 <p>UTAH DEPARTMENT OF <b>HEALTH</b> Baby Watch Early Intervention Birth to Three Development</p>	<b>Policy #:</b>	1.A.8
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	<b>Responsible Authority:</b>	BWEIP Manager

### II Purpose:

To describe how the Baby Watch Early Intervention Program (BWEIP) strives to ensure that appropriate early intervention services are based on scientifically based research, to the extent practicable and to identify how the State ensures early intervention (EI) services are available to all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, including Indian and homeless children and families.

### III Definition(s):

#### Early Intervention (EI):

Early Intervention (EI) refers to programs or services which are selected in collaboration with parents, and are designed to meet the developmental needs of a child and the needs of the family to assist in the child's development.

#### Homeless Children:

Homeless children are considered any individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence to include, but not limited to:

- Children who are sharing housing with other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds, cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings;
- Substandard housing, such as emergency or transitional shelters or similar settings;
- Abandoned in hospitals; or
- Awaiting foster care placement.

#### Indian:

An Indian is an individual who is a member of an Indian tribe.

#### Indian Tribe:

Indian tribe means any Federal or State Indian tribe, band, rancheria, pueblo, colony, or community.

#### Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP):

An Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a working document agreed upon by EI service providers and family members to address the special needs of eligible children from birth to three (3).

#### Infant or Toddler with a Disability (Child/ren):

A child under three (3) years of age who needs EI services because s/he is experiencing a developmental delay in one or more of the following areas:

- Cognitive development;
- Physical development, including vision and hearing;
- Communication development;

- Social or emotional development;
- Adaptive development; or
- Is diagnosed with a physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay.

**Peer-Reviewed Research:**

Peer-reviewed research refers to research that is reviewed by qualified and independent reviewers to ensure the quality of the information meets the standards of the field before being published.

**Qualified Personnel:**

Personnel who have met state approved or recognized certification, registration, licensing, or other comparable requirements that apply to the areas in which the individuals are conducting evaluations, assessments, or providing EI services.

**Scientifically Based Research:**

Scientifically based research involves the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to educational activities and programs. Scientifically based research includes research that:

- Employs systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment;
- Involves rigorous data analyses that are adequate to test the stated hypotheses and justify the general conclusions drawn;
- Relies on measurements or observational methods that provide reliable and valid data across evaluators and observers, across multiple measurements and observations, and across studies by the same or different investigators;
- Is evaluated using experimental or quasi-experimental designs in which individuals, entities, programs, or activities are assigned to different conditions and with appropriate controls to evaluate the effects of the condition of interest, with a preference for random-assignment experiments, or other designs to the extent that those designs contain within-condition or across-condition controls;
- Ensures that experimental studies are presented in sufficient detail and clarity to allow for replication or, at a minimum, offer the opportunity to build systematically on their findings; and
- Has been accepted by a peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review.

**IV Procedure(s):**

**A. EI Services:**

1. EI services provided within the State shall consist of the following practices and developmental services:
  - a. Provided under public supervision;
  - b. Selected in collaboration with the parents;
  - c. May be subject to a schedule of sliding fees;
  - d. Designed to meet the developmental needs of an infant or toddler with a disability or delay and the needs of the family, as identified by the IFSP team in any one or more of the following areas:
    - 1) Physical;
    - 2) Cognitive;
    - 3) Communication; and/or
    - 4) Social, emotional or adaptive development;
  - e. Meet BWEIP standards; and

- f. Provided by qualified personnel.
2. Within the precise practices and developmental services provided above, there are a variety of EI services provided within the State, to include, but not limited to:
- a. Assistive technology devices and services;
  - b. Audiology services;
  - c. Family training;
  - d. Counseling and home visits;
  - e. Health services;
  - f. Medical services;
  - g. Nursing services;
  - h. Nutrition services;
  - i. Occupational therapy;
  - j. Physical therapy;
  - k. Psychological services;
  - l. Service coordination services;
  - m. Sign language and cued language services;
  - n. Social work services;
  - o. Special instruction;
  - p. Speech-language pathology services;
  - q. Transportation; and
  - r. Vision services.

**Note:** For a more complete listing of EI services and for a definition of EI services (See [34 CFR §303.13\(b\)\(d\)](#)).

## **B. Appropriate EI services Supported by Scientifically Based Research:**

1. BWEIP shall provide the following assistance to EI providers:
  - a. Professional development and technical assistance.
    - 1) BWEIP shall provide professional development on scientifically based research related to EI services.
      - a) BWEIP may provide professional development during its quarterly grantee meetings;
      - b) BWEIP may provide professional development during a conference; and/or;
      - c) BWEIP may invite recognized experts to provide professional development on scientifically based research.

- 2) BWEIP shall provide technical assistance to each local EI program on selecting appropriate EI services supported by scientifically based research.
  - a) BWEIP shall provide technical assistance, if services are identified that are not appropriate or are not supported by scientifically based research.
  - b) Upon request from an EI program, BWEIP may provide additional technical assistance on the delivery of appropriate and scientifically based research concerning EI services.
- b. BWEIP shall utilize a tool to evaluate whether services are supported by scientifically based research:
  - 1) BWEIP shall develop a protocol for local EI programs to use when evaluating services.
  - 2) BWEIP shall use the established protocol to evaluate services provided by local EI programs.
2. Local EI program activities:
  - a. EI programs shall ask one or more of the following questions to determine whether each EI service being offered or proposed is supported by scientifically based research:
    - 1) Has the intervention been replicated across investigators, settings, and participants?
    - 2) Are there alternative interventions that are less restrictive, better researched, or perhaps more effective or efficient?
    - 3) Is the intervention within the existing skill set of practitioners, or do they need prior training and consultation?
    - 4) Has the intervention been shown to produce outcomes like the ones intended?
    - 5) How will the EI program evaluate the intervention if decided to implement?
    - 6) Has the intervention been evaluated in a peer-reviewed journal?

**C. All Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families:**

1. BWEIP activities:
  - a. Child Find activities are implemented to reach all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
  - b. BWEIP shall regularly review child count data to ensure that all populations (by race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or geographic region) are receiving appropriate EI services.

**D. Indian Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families:**

1. BWEIP and local EI programs shall complete child find activities to include efforts to identify Indian toddlers with disabilities and their families.
2. Notices shall be published in native languages on Utah Tribal reservations.
3. BWEIP shall collaborate with other Department of Health programs that provide services on the reservations.
4. Local EI programs shall provide services that are culturally appropriate.

**E. Homeless Infants and Toddlers and their Families:**

1. BWEIP and local EI programs shall include efforts to identify homeless toddlers with disabilities and their families.
2. BWEIP shall collaborate with other Department of Health programs that provide services to homeless children and families.

**V Authority:**

34 CFR §303.13(b)(d) [Early intervention services](#)  
34 CFR §303.32 [Scientifically based research](#)  
Section 725 (42 U.S.C. 11434a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act  
Section 9101 (37) of the ESEA

**VI Related Directive(s):**

None

**VI Revision Log:**

January 2013: New policy.

		<i>7-01-13</i>
Susan Ord, BWEIP Program Manager		Date