



Frequently Asked Questions for Physicians: Babies Can't Wait & the Primary Service Provider/ Coaching Model of Service Delivery

See the BCW website for more detailed information on this topic: <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw/>

What is changing in Babies Can't Wait (BCW) related to their model of service delivery?

In response to federal guidance to focus on where and how services are provided, as well as the research and evidence that supports the services, and the effectiveness of the services, Babies Can't Wait is implementing a model of service delivery in which a primary service provider/coach will support the learning of the family, caregiver and other professionals through a process of coaching. The primary service provider/coach will be part of an active team, with the parents/caregivers and other professional team members, and have access to input and support from the other members on the team on a regular basis. Each child's team is comprised of professionals from various disciplines, including but not limited to occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, nursing, nutrition, and/or early childhood education/special education, which are determined to be necessary to support the child and family toward the attainment of IFSP outcomes or goals. The primary service provider could be any one of these team members. The goal of this model is to provide supports that help families promote children's development and participation within their families and communities, through numerous learning opportunities that occur within everyday activities and routines.

Will a primary service provider/coaching model of service delivery mean a reduction in or less individualized services to children and families?

Services in a primary service provider/coaching model will be better individualized to meet the needs of each child and family since the focus will be on team-identified routines, strengths, and needed supports unique to each child and family. In this approach, multiple professionals may be present for fewer sessions, but the knowledge shared between professionals and caregivers for use across various settings and activities is greatly increased and ultimately provides the child many more opportunities for practice of skills.

How will this approach be different from services that might be provided at a clinic/rehabilitation facility or through professionally-driven intervention in natural environments?

Services provided in a clinic/rehab facility or through professionally-driven interventions in natural environments are typically based on the clinician's assessment of a child's deficits. There is little opportunity for the clinician to identify and build on each family's strengths and the resources that families have to use in supporting their child's learning. Intervention in such an approach is primarily focused on the mastery of isolated skills rather than the interrelated nature of all areas of a child's development. This approach results in limited generalization of skills to other settings and less support of the child in fully participating in his daily life.

What evidence exists to indicate that this model works for children and families?

Research in the field of early intervention and early childhood education/special education indicates this approach leads to real gains in child development; improvement in the family's feeling of competence in meeting their child's developmental needs and attainment of meaningful, functional outcomes for children in the context of their family and community. A brief list of recommended articles as well as a summary of findings from implementation sites throughout Georgia and information about the positions of the national associations for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology can be found on the BCW webpage.

When will these changes be implemented?

Final deadlines for full implementation have not been established. By June 2006, core teams of early intervention professionals will be trained in each Public Health District throughout the state in order to continue toward full implementation statewide.

What if I have more questions?

Contact your local Babies Can't Wait Early Intervention Coordinator, BCW Parent Educator, or the State Babies Can't Wait office at 404-657-2726 or toll free at 888-651-8224. Or visit the Babies Can't Wait webpage periodically for updated information: <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw/>