

More Tips and Things to Remember:

What to do if you have questions about a child's development:

(From: An Early Education Provider's Guide to Early Intervention Services in Pennsylvania)

- Talking about a child's growth and development should be a common occurrence between an early education provider and ALL families.
- If you need to have conversation about a concern you have regarding development, set up a time to meet and talk with the family.
 - Make sure this meeting is held in an area that is private and comfortable.
 - Recognize that this might be an emotional meeting for the family. Be prepared for a range of responses.
 - Take an active listening role. Ask the family what their perceptions are.
 - Make sure you have some examples and documentation of your concerns. Samples of recent work, work over time, etc.
 - Talk about what you are currently doing to support the child to meet their needs.
 - Do NOT try to diagnose the problem or label the child. Your role is to help to connect the family to EI, so they can receive a comprehensive assessment.
 - Be prepared with referral information for Early Intervention. Provide the family information on what the process looks like, what it involves.
 - The family should leave this meeting feeling that they will be supported as they move through this process.
- What to do if a family is not interested in connecting with Early Intervention at this time:
 - Keep the connection lines open. Know that all families process information differently, in their own ways.
 - Know that a trusting, strong relationship with a caring professional is important especially at this time. Your continued encouragement and support of the child and positive, open communication with the family help the family to make the leap to feeling comfortable enough to make the call.
 - Keep in mind that families may be receiving conflicting messages from other trusted sources friends, family members, etc., this can be difficult for families to manage.

