The following provide information regarding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Part C natural environment requirements.

**Early Intervention Services Definitions**

**Section 632(4)(6)**

To the maximum extent appropriate, early intervention services are to be provided in natural environments, including the home and community settings in which children without disabilities participate.

**34CFR303.13(a)(8)**

Early intervention services means developmental services that to the maximum extent appropriate, are provided in natural environments as defined in §303.26 and consistent with §§303.126 and 303.344(d).

**34CFR303.26**

A natural environment means settings that are natural or typical for a same-aged infant or toddler without a disability, may include the home or community settings, and must be consistent with the provisions of §303.126.

**Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Policies and Procedures**

**34CFR303.126**

Each system must include policies and procedures to ensure, consistent with §303.13(a)(8), 303.26, and 303.344(d)(1)(iii), that early interventions services for infants and toddlers with disabilities are provided:

- To the maximum extent appropriate, in natural environments: and
- In settings other than the natural environment that are most appropriate, as determined by the parent and the IFSP Team, only when early intervention services cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment.

**Content of IFSP**


The IFSP must include a statement of the specific early intervention services, based on peer-reviewed research (to the extent practicable), that are necessary to meet the unique needs of the child and the family to achieve the results or outcomes including:

- A statement that each early intervention service is provided in the natural environment for that child or service to the maximum extent appropriate consistent with §§303.13(a)(8), 303.26 and
303.126 a justification as to why an early intervention service will not be provided in the natural environment.

- The determination of the appropriate setting for providing early intervention services to an infant or toddler with a disability, including any justification for not providing a particular early intervention service in the natural environment for that infant or toddler with a disability and service, must be:
  - Made by the IFSP Team (which includes the parent and other team members);
  - Consistent with §§303.13(a)(8), 303.26 and 303.126; and
  - Based on the child’s outcomes that are identified by the IFSP Team.

**Section 636 (d)(5)**

A statement of the natural environments in which early intervention services will appropriately be provided, including a justification, if any, to which the services will not be provided in a natural environment.

**Requirements for Statewide System**

**Section 635 (a)(16)(A)and (B)**

To the maximum extent appropriate, early intervention services are provided in natural environments and the provision of early intervention services, for any infant and toddler with a disability, occurs in a setting other than a natural environment that is most appropriate, as determined by the parent and IFSP team, only when early intervention cannot be achieved satisfactorily for the infant or toddler in a natural environment.