

<b>UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES POLICY AND PROCEDURES</b>		
<b>Baby Watch Early Intervention Program Policy: 1.A.8</b>	<b>Page 1 of 3</b>	
<b>SCIENTIFICALLY BASED RESEARCH</b>		
<p><b>RATIONALE:</b> For all Utah families to receive Part C early intervention (EI) services that reflect evidence-based practices and the most current scientific knowledge</p> <p><i>Related Policies, Applicable Standards, Statutes:</i>  34 CFR §303.13(b) Early intervention services  34 CFR §303.112 Availability of early intervention services  Section 725 (42 U.S.C. 11434a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act</p>		
<b>Original Effective: 7/01/2013</b>	<b>Revision: February 2023</b>	<b>Next Review Due: 3 years after</b>

**I. DESCRIPTION**

Requirements for evidence-based EI services, including how local EI programs should evaluate if services are evidence-based, and receive education and support from Baby Watch

This policy supersedes any previous department policy governing this subject matter. It does not supplant any existing federal, state, or department laws/policies to which the department shall adhere.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

**DHHS or department:** Utah Department of Health and Human Services and collectively all its operational units.

**OU:** Operational units within DHHS, including divisions, offices, or standalone operations whose director reports to the executive director, a deputy director, an assistant deputy director, or a division director.

**Qualified Personnel:** As described in §303.31, 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 and assessments, or providing EI services.

**Scientifically Based Research:** As described in section 9101(37) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective procedures to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to educational activities and programs.

### III. POLICY

- A. Baby Watch shall ensure services are based on scientifically based research and are:
  - 1. Provided under public supervision
  - 2. Selected in collaboration with the parents
  - 3. Subject to a sliding fee scale
  - 4. 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: a) Physical, b) Cognitive, c) Communication, d) Social-emotional, e) Adaptive
  - 5. In compliance with Baby Watch policy
  - 6. Provided by qualified personnel
  
- B. Practices and developmental services include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Assistive technology devices and services
  - 2. Audiology services
  - 3. Family training
  - 4. Counseling and home visits
  - 5. Health services
  - 6. Medical services
  - 7. Nursing services
  - 8. Nutrition services
  - 9. Occupational therapy
  - 10. Physical therapy
  - 11. Psychological services
  - 12. Service coordination services
  - 13. Sign language and cued language services
  - 14. Social work services
  - 15. Special instruction
  - 16. Speech-language pathology services
  - 17. Transportation
  - 18. Vision service
  
- C. Baby Watch and local EI programs shall collaborate to conduct child find activities to reach all infants and toddlers with disabilities throughout Utah, including but not limited to:
  - 1. Infants and toddlers residing on tribal lands
  - 2. Infants and toddlers whose families are experiencing homelessness
  
- D. Local EI programs shall provide culturally appropriate services to all families including Indian children and their families.
  
- E. Baby Watch shall review child count data on a regular basis to ensure that all populations (by race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or geographic region) are receiving appropriate EI services.

### IV. PROCEDURE

- A. Baby Watch shall provide the following assistance to EI providers:
  - 1. Professional development and Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) on scientifically-based research (also known as evidence-based practice) related to EI services, which may include professional development:
    - a) During quarterly grantee meetings
    - b) During a conference
    - c) From-recognized experts on scientifically based research

- B. Baby Watch shall provide local EI programs with T/TA regarding scientifically based early intervention practices if:
  - 1. Services are identified that are not appropriate or are not supported by scientifically based research.
  - 2. If requested by a local EI program and is feasible to do so.
- C. Baby Watch shall use the General Supervision System to evaluate whether services provided by local EI programs are supported by scientifically based research.
- D. Local 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 local EI program evaluate the intervention if decided to implement?
  - 6. Has the intervention been evaluated in a peer-reviewed journal?
- E. Baby Watch and local EI programs shall complete child find activities to identify Indian infants and toddlers with disabilities which include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Publishing notices in native languages on tribal lands
  - 2. Collaborating with other state agencies that provide services on tribal lands
- F. Baby Watch and local EI programs shall:
  - 1. Identify infants and toddlers with disabilities whose families are experiencing homelessness
  - 2. Collaborate with other agencies and community partners that provide services to homeless children and families

**V. EXCEPTIONS**

Baby Watch may make exceptions to this policy as necessary.