



A place to get quick updates spotlighting what's happening in the Kentucky Early Intervention System (KEIS). The newsletter is sent on the first Friday of every month and is hosted on [Service Provider Information](#).

We're Here All Year!

Each March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) leads Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, celebrating inclusive communities where everyone belongs. This year's theme, "We're Here All Year," reminds us that people with developmental disabilities deserve access, opportunity and full participation every day, not just in March. By supporting infants and toddlers with developmental delays and their families, we can make a meaningful difference from the very start.

Serving Where You're Needed Most

There is a need for in-person KEIS services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and their families in all areas of the state. Please consider serving families in person, especially in communities where provider shortages are greatest. Your presence can mean earlier progress, stronger family confidence and better long-term outcomes for children. If you are able to provide in-person services in a new county, please reach out to your local [Point of Entry](#) to learn where there is a specific need and email KEISproviderenrollment@ky.gov to update your service catchment area. Thank you for your continued dedication to children and families and for considering how you can help meet this need.

Contacting KEIS

General Assistance: DPHKEIS@ky.gov

Billing: DPHKEISBilling@ky.gov

Provider Enrollment:

KEISProviderEnrollment@ky.gov



Writing What's Strong, Not What's Wrong

Families receiving KEIS services are often anxious about their child's future. The reports and documentation created during their time in KEIS are among the first formal records families will encounter as their child moves through the educational system. These early messages can shape long-term perceptions of their child's abilities and potential. For this reason, the tone and content of our documentation is paramount.

Best practice is to write from a strengths-based perspective. This approach intentionally moves away from deficit-focused language (what a child cannot do) toward neutral, respectful and positive language that highlights family capabilities, existing resources and opportunities for growth. More specifically, we can:

- **Reframe to Strength-Based Language:** Describe what the child does and prefers, rather than labeling behaviors as problems.
 - *"Suzie preferred to engage with her cars and trucks"* instead of *"Suzie was non-compliant or resistant to engage with puzzles."*
 - *"Timmy engaged with toys in preferred ways and sustained attention for up to 10 minutes independently"* rather than *"Timmy's play with toys was repetitive."*
- **Highlight Strengths in Documentation:** Acknowledge interactions and how caregivers support.
 - *"Bobby communicated what he wanted by taking his mom's hand, placing it on the item, and grunting"* rather than *"Bobby has limited social-communication skills."*
 - Document caregiver efforts to address priorities and the resources they are using.
- **Use Specific, Observable and Positive Phrasing:** Focus on what was directly observed, without judgment or interpretation.
 - *"Johnny ran around the living room, hit his mother twice and threw the blocks when presented"* rather than labeling him as *"impulsive."*
 - *"Carlos stood up during table activities, and his mom guided him back to the table"* instead of *"Carlos has difficulty sitting still."*
- **Structure Notes for Strengths:**
 - Begin service log notes with positive observations or successful moments from the session, rather than starting with challenges.
 - Emphasize existing resources and strengths in the plan section of notes.

By writing from a strengths- and abilities-focused perspective, we reinforce the expectation that children and families will build on the foundation of their existing strengths and interests. This approach not only supports family confidence but also sets a clear and hopeful message of continued progress.