

October 2026

First Friday Focus



Celebrating Our Service Coordinators: Leaders Who Bring It All Together



October is Case Management Month!

We're celebrating the important role of our Service Coordinators (SCs). As leaders of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team, SCs partner with families and providers to identify priorities, coordinate support and ensure families receive quality, timely and meaningful early intervention services.

Service coordination is about more than connecting families to services. SCs are often the first point of contact with families and set the stage for quality early intervention. They build relationships, facilitate collaboration, navigate challenges and help keep the team focused on what matters most: the child and

family.

Thank you, Service Coordinators, for your leadership, dedication and the difference you make every day!

Supporting Our Service Coordinators

When we support our Service Coordinators, we strengthen the entire early intervention system and the families we serve. That is why the KEIS State Office assisted in creating the Service Coordination Community of Practice. This group provides a space for SCs to connect, share resources and ideas, problem-solve and learn from one another. It's an opportunity to strengthen practice, celebrate

successes and support one another in the important work of partnering with families and leading IFSP teams.

Next SC CoP Meeting: November 17 from 10 – 11 AM EST, 9 – 10 CST

When Caregivers Lead: Rethinking Visit Success

How are you measuring the success of a visit as you drive away from a family's home, childcare center, or wrap up your approved teleintervention (TI) session?

Success occurs when we build collaborative partnerships with families and maintain an open mindset toward their priorities and ideas. We can measure a visit's success by how we support caregivers in sharing *their* accomplishments, how *they* navigate resources, how confident *they* feel voicing their prioritized plans, and how *they* practice new strategies. Consistent and intentional implementation of the coaching framework across the IFSP team gives caregivers a safe space to build their confidence.

In this series of clips from three consecutive visits, early intervention provider, Lesley, supports an out-of-district rural family through TI while participating in the CEITMP. Take note of how she maintains consistency in joint planning, using strategies to shift the conversation to learn the family's priorities and facilitate their plans. See how Lesley intentionally shares control with the caregivers and explains the purpose behind her questions.

As you watch, consider: How does Lesley's coaching continue to shift the focus toward the family across these three visits? What changes do you notice in the caregiver's confidence and responses over time?

- [Visit 1](#)
- [Visit 2](#)
- [Visit 3](#)

Assistive Technology: What Qualifies?



As we support children and families, it is important to remember that not every item used during an early intervention visit is an Assistive Technology (AT) device. Under KEIS policy, an AT device must be necessary to increase, maintain or improve the child's functional capabilities in an area of development. It must be usable by the child and parent independently to meet a developmentally appropriate IFSP outcome. AT devices are not intended to be used solely as a therapy tool by the provider and are not items readily available for purchase.

Before requesting an AT device, consider: Can this need be addressed using items the family already has or can reasonably find in their home or community? If so, the item may be better addressed through coaching and problem-solving with the family rather than through an AT request.

Remember, AT can range from low- to high-technology devices. The IFSP team determines whether AT is necessary, based on the child's IFSP outcomes, through an AT assessment or a recommendation from a qualified team member. When requesting a device, providers should clearly document the specific device requested, why it is required to meet a child's IFSP outcomes, and how the family will use the AT.

A helpful question to ask is: *"Is this an AT device the child needs, or is this a strategy we can coach the family to use with what they already have?"*

Want to learn more about AT in KEIS?

- Refer to Chapter 9 of the [Policy Procedure Manual](#)
- A listing of commonly approved AT devices can be found at the Kentucky Early Intervention System (KEIS) Assistive Technology Facebook Group under the file section in a document called *KEIS AT Equipment List*. Since this is a closed group, you must request to join and be approved by the Administrator.

KEIS DMS: OSEP Required Activities Update

We'd like to provide a brief update on the KEIS Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) process and the activities required by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in order to maintain good standing and continue to receive federal funding.

KEIS continues to work through the required activities associated with the DMS process. These activities are designed to strengthen the implementation of Part C of IDEA and support continuous improvement across KEIS.

Over the coming months, you may see additional opportunities for training, communication and data collection connected to this work. These efforts are intended to help us better understand current practices, identify areas for improvement and strengthen support for children, families and early intervention providers.

We appreciate the continued partnership of providers, Service Coordinators, families and other members of the early intervention community as we work together to support high-quality, family-centered early intervention services across Kentucky.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to Kentucky's children and families.

