



SERVICES, RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH FOR EDUCATION

Children three through five years of age must be educated to the maximum extent appropriate with children who are not disabled (Least Restrictive Environment). (A Family's Introduction to Early Intervention in Pennsylvania, OCDEL, July 2007).

The AIU DART early intervention program provides Collaborative Consultation in response to meeting children's needs and to increasing their participation in early care and education environments.

What does a Collaborative Consultation Visit look like?

The focus of this model is the consultant's ability to communicate effectively with the consultee and to provide ideas and strategies that embed the implementation of goals into the child's existing routine.

If observing this model of early intervention services, you might see the consultant:

- working directly with the child in order to teach new skills, collecting data, probing for progress and effectiveness of current specially designed instruction. This direct contact may be one to one or in a small group.
- joining in the existing routine to gather information about a specific skill or to answer questions of a team member.
- leading a small group activity. The consultant usually uses materials included in the environment or provides materials to the environment and involves adults for carryover.
- modeling strategies, such as use of visuals and a prompting hierarchy, for the adult (preschools teachers, caregivers or parents).
- providing guidance to the adults in using techniques and environmental modifications.

Communication between the consultant and the consultee is provided at each visit through written notes and/or conversation. Each setting is unique as is each relationship. Finally, this model is NOT pull out with the child and early intervention staff working in isolation on a goal.

The diversity of learners should be acknowledged and celebrated.