

**Westchester County Early Intervention Program
Session Note Policy & Procedure
For Children in KIDS/NYEIS
Effective 6/1/13**

I. POLICY DESCRIPTION:

Providers of Early Intervention must maintain and make available to the municipality and the State Department of Health (SDOH) upon request, complete financial records and clinical documentation related to the provision of early intervention services including information and documentation necessary to support billing to third party payors (including the medical assistance program) and the State, and to permit a full fiscal audit by appropriate State and municipal authorities. (NYCRR 69-4.9(g)(6))

Agency and individual providers must maintain Early Intervention Program records for each eligible child that includes documentation necessary to support claims to third party payors, including the medical assistance program, and to the Department for reimbursement of early intervention services. (NYCRR 69-4.26(a)(15))

“Session notes specifically document that the early intervention provider delivered certain diagnostic and/or treatment services to a child and/or caregiver on a particular date. Session notes also assist payors, parents, early intervention providers and municipalities in assessing the extent to which services are helping the child/family to achieve the goals contained in the IFSP. Session notes must be completed by all qualified personnel (i.e. special educator, physical therapist, social worker, etc.) delivering the early intervention services authorized in a family’s IFSP for *each service delivered.*” (NYS DOH EIP Memorandum 2003-1)

The session note is also a valuable clinical tool to document how well previous activities worked for the family and child, what occurred during the session, what strategies and natural routines were used, and what learning activities are planned next. The session note can be used by the parents/caregiver as a reference tool, and can help support collaboration and communication among the other interventionists working with the child on the same functional outcomes.

II. PROCEDURE:

Responsible Party	Action
EIP Interventionists	<p>1. Document information regarding all scheduled sessions (held or cancelled) on the <i>Westchester County Early Intervention Program Session Note</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The session note must be completed in its entirety. b. The session note must be completed as close to the conclusion of the visit as possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sessions should be delivered at the duration specified in the IFSP and should not end early to complete the session note. Case recording, training, supervisory conferences ...are not separately billable activities. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Note: The duties of the provider are discussed in Social Service Law at 18 NYCRR Section 504.3. Providers must prepare and maintain contemporaneous records that demonstrate the provider’s right to receive payment under the Medicaid program. (“Contemporaneous” records means documentation of the services that have been provided as close to the conclusion of the session as practicable.)</p> </div>

- c. A separate session note must be written for each service type that an interventionist is delivering.
- d. A separate session note must be written by each interventionist for authorized co-visits, and team meetings.
- e. Each interventionist must retain a copy of this session note and ensure that their corresponding provider agency(ies) receive a copy.
- f. Ensure that the parent/caregiver receive a copy of the session note(s) when requested.

Note:

- Demographic information (child's name, DOB, Authorization #, interventionist name, discipline...) may be entered in preparation for the session.
 - Session notes may be corrected if each strikethrough is initialed and dated by the interventionist.
 - Session note corrections will be questioned if the corrections create the appearance of impropriety.
- g. When a session cannot be held for a family or provider reason:
 - i. Session notes must be completed for every session that was cancelled/not held.
 - ii. The reason for the non-delivery of service must be indicated.
 - iii. A single session note can be completed to indicate a range of absences or cancellations such as in the case of vacations.
2. Ensures session notes are signed by the parent/caregiver and the interventionist at the end of each session. This is required for the provision of all services, **except** toddler developmental groups.
 - a. Parents should never be asked to sign a blank session note.
 3. Provides the family with a copy of the session note for their use as a reference tool and/or record of services when requested by the parent/caregiver.
 - a. The family should receive a copy of their session note as close as possible to the corresponding visit.
 4. Submits session notes to the authorized service provider.
 - a. Independent contractors must keep original session notes and submit copies to the provider agency.
 - b. Employed interventionist submit original session notes to the authorized provider agency.
 5. Makes all session notes available when requested by parents; the interventionist's supervisor or by their provider agency; and by Westchester County Department of Health Early Intervention Program and the New York State DOH .

Service Provider Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bills for services provided based upon the receipt and review of Interventionist's session notes.2. Reviews session notes to ensure that:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Services were provided in accordance with IFSP service authorizations in terms of service type, frequency and duration;b. Session notes demonstrate that services were delivered in compliance with regulatory requirements and include information necessary for reimbursement for services, as noted above (See I. Policy Description).3. Upon request, expeditiously provide session notes to WCDH EIP and NYSDOH EIP.4. Upon request, provide session notes to parents within:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Ten (10) business days upon receipt of request; andb. Five (5) business days when requested as part of a mediation or impartial hearing.
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**WESTCHESTER COUNTY EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF
SESSION NOTES**

GENERAL DIRECTIONS	
The interventionist must complete this form for each session completed and document whenever a session is cancelled and the reason for the cancellation on the form. A copy must be submitted to the interventionist's provider agency for billing purposes.	
All Session Note fields are mandatory. Refer to the Session Note Policy	
DEMOGRAPHIC/AUTHORIZATION INFORMATION	
Child's Name:	Information must be the same as in KIDS/NYEIS (do not use nickname).
DOB:	Enter child's date of birth.
Sex:	Enter the sex of the child (M,F).
Authorization #:	Enter Authorization # for the child and service being provided.
Interventionist Name:	Print the name of the interventionist who is completing this form.
Credentials:	Interventionist's discipline/credentials, e.g. speech therapist (Speech/Language Pathologist, MS, CCC/SP), special educator (MS Ed.), etc.
National Provider ID (NPI):	Write the National Provider ID (NPI). [See NY State regulations from June 2010]
Service Type:	IFSP authorized service delivered by the interventionist, e.g., Speech, Physical Therapy.
Session Date:	Date session was held.
IFSP Service Location:	This is the location the IFSP indicates the service is to be provided (i.e., facility, etc.)
Time:	Exact duration of session. From begin time to end time . AM/PM must be indicated in order to support billing.
ICD-9 Code:	The relevant ICD-9 code as indicated on the child's evaluation.
HCPCS Code (if applicable):	Enter the Level II HCPCS code for the service or product provided by a non-health care interventionist (for example, Special Educator).
CPT Code(s):	Enter the CPT code(s) as indicated by the interventionist's professional association. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the CPT code, a session may require more than one. For example, if the same service was provided for a 30 minute session and the CPT code is for 15 minutes of service, the CPT code would be listed twice. (See Early Intervention Memorandum 2003-1).
Session Cancelled:	When a session is cancelled: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indicate that the session was cancelled and document the reason under question #1. 2. This is a make-up session for: If this session is a make-up session, check this box and indicate the date of the missed session.
Session Participants:	Check the box that indicates the session participants. Specify others not listed (e.g. siblings)
Parent/Caregiver unable to participate	Indicate the reason the parent/caregiver was not able to participate.
Question #1 to #5 support the interventionist in their work with the parent/caregiver and the child.	

<p>1. Describe the progress/response that the child has made toward the IFSP outcomes since the last session. Incorporate Parent/caregiver feedback.</p>	<p>The information in this section guides what will be worked on during the current session.</p> <p>In this session, the interventionist must document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The progress the child had made since the last visit (i.e., generalization to other routines, ease of doing, obstacles encountered, etc.) after observing the child & parent/caregiver in the routine and talking with the parent/caregiver. 2. Document feedback from the parent/caregiver as to what strategies worked and did not work. <p>The interventionist may also update information about the child/family if there are changes in medical or developmental status or in community services.</p>
<p>2. IFSP Functional Outcome(s) and Objective(s) addressed during this session:</p>	<p>Document the IFSP functional outcome(s) and objective(s) that was worked on in this session with the child and parent/caregiver.</p> <p>Note: Ongoing discussion with the parent/caregivers about what their concerns, priorities and resources currently are will help guide the functional outcome or objective that will be worked on.</p>
<p>3. Routine Activities worked on during the session:</p> <p>Strategies used within the Routine Activities:</p>	<p>The session note must include documentation that services are being delivered within the context of the family's natural routines and are functional for the child.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The routines must be specific to the family's cultural and social environment and are of a concern and priority for them. 2. The routine activities should include but are not limited to those listed in the functional outcomes in the IFSP. 3. It is expected that a range of family routines be documented when appropriate. Routines should not be limited to "play routines". <p>Check off all those that were used during the session or write in the daily routine if it is not listed. Routine activities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Routines which cover hygiene routines, food routines, & dressing routines; • Play/Socialization routines; • Community/Family routines; • Song/Rhyme Routines; • Book Routines; and <p>Indicate the strategies used to help the families/caregivers successfully support the child's participation in daily activities.</p> <p>The following are examples of strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive reinforcement at all levels; • Parent models –child imitates; • Verbal cues only; • Gesture with verbal cues; • Physical prompts; • Hand-over-hand; • Increased opportunities to practice; • Modification of social or physical environment; • Positioning; • Adaptation of materials; • Use of Assistive Technology; and • Discrete trail instruction

<p>4. How did you coach (techniques) the parent/caregiver?</p> <p><i>If the parent/caregiver was unavailable, how did you work with the child and communicate with the parent/caregiver about the session?</i></p>	<p>Each family learns in different ways. Some families may not choose to participate in a session while others may choose to participate. Check off <u>all</u> coaching techniques used during the session. If a technique is not listed, please check “other” and describe the technique(s). Some techniques utilized to coach the parent/caregiver include but are not limited to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observed parent/caregiver and child performing activities • Discussed activity with parent/caregiver • Assisted parent/caregiver • Giving the parent a picture illustrating the way to position the child after demonstrating the method • Demonstrated parent/caregiver activity • Interventionist modeled and explained the strategy and provided feedback as parent tried the activity with the child • Videotaped learning activity and reviewed with parent • Observed parent/caregiver and child performing activities and both the parent/caregiver and the interventionist provided feedback during the session • Reviewed communication tool with parent/caregiver • Identified the methods and sequence of the activity for the parent • Generalized the strategy to other routines with the parent <p>Document the strategies that were used to work with the child when the parent/caregiver was not available or chose not to participate in the session. Indicate the methods used to communicate these strategies to the parent/caregiver.</p>
<p>5. What learning activities did the parent/caregiver agree to do with the child before the next visit</p>	<p>A learning activity is a combination of the strategy embedded within the routine activity. Outline the sequence of the learning activity(ies) for the parent/caregiver that they have agreed to do until the next visit. Indicate here if the parent/caregiver did not agree to work on a learning activity with the reason if given and what efforts were made by the interventionist to engage the parent/caregiver.</p> <p>During each visit, the interventionist and the parent/caregiver determine and collaborate together on deciding which learning activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be integrated into the child and family’s natural routines based on family’s comfort level and that fit seamlessly into the family’s daily routines. • Will be used to build upon the child and family’s strengths and competencies. • The family can use without the presence of the interventionist. <p>Include the following information if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the child is authorized an AT device, describe how the family will use the device as part of the child’s daily routine. • The framework of the strategies and whether they may be used across other natural routines when the child and family feel they have been successful. • Include recommendations of other interventionists working with the parent/caregiver and child whenever possible.

<p>Parent/Caregiver Signature and Relationship to the child:</p>	<p>The parent/caregiver signs the session note and indicates his/her relationship to the child at the end of the session. The date used is the date that the parent reviews/signs the completed note. A parent must not be asked to sign an incomplete note. *This does not apply to toddler development groups.</p>
<p>Interventionist Signature, Date and License/Certification number:</p>	<p>The interventionist signs the session note and adds his/her credentials. If certified, write “certified” and do not indicate number. The date that the session note was signed is then entered. This field may also include the signature, License/Certification number of a supervisor in the case of student interns, CFYs, OTAs, and PTAs, as applicable. A date should also be indicated.</p>