

Intervenor For DeafBlind Fact Sheet

Intervenors should keep in mind the following do's and don'ts as they work in the home with children with deafblindness and their families.

DO:

- Relate to the family in an open, non-judgmental way.
- Give the child undivided attention.
- Help parents appreciate the impact of their interactions with the child.
- Support the parents in finding ways to encourage the child to explore and learn in an environment that is both stimulating and safe.
- Talk with parents about what the child has been doing.
- Work cooperatively with the families in planning the home visit sessions.
- Be positive when making suggestions.
- Watch the child for signs of development and small positive changes and share them with the parents.
- Work within the scheduled framework and establish routines.
- Work in a comfortable setting with minimal distractions.
- Point out the child's assets to parents.
- Help parents feel that they are in control, and you are there to help.
- Help parents examine alternatives to arrive at an acceptable approach to a problem.

DON'T:

- Try to be all things (i.e., marriage counselor or financial advisor)
- Try to solve all their problems for them.
- Pretend you know it all.
- Be a babysitter during the visit.
- Make the entire time a "friendly visit", or spend time watching television.
- Make them dependent on you.
- Compare their child with other children all the time.
- Make them feel guilty about the things they have or have not done.
- Point out all of the child's problems as well as all the problems in store for them in the future.
- Give parents a long list of all the things they could do for their handicapped child.
- Over reassure new parents that everything will be "OK" – downplaying the problems.
- Tell them that you know exactly how they feel...no two people react in the same way to the same event.
- Be late for visits; keep within the time allotment.