

# **NC-ICC Mission Statement And Philosophy**

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## **NC-ICC Mission**

The mission of North Carolina Interagency Coordinating Council for Children with Disabilities Ages Birth to Five and Their Families (NC-ICC) is to respond to the needs of children birth to five with or at risk for disabilities and their families by advocating for the development and implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated system of health, developmental, and educational services.

## **NC-ICC Philosophy**

- The family is the constant in the child's life while the service systems and personnel within those systems vary. **THEREFORE**, services should accommodate families rather than families accommodating the services.
- Families are better able to provide appropriate care for their children with special needs if the family's resources are adequate for meeting the family's needs. **THEREFORE**, services to families must support the families' efforts to mobilize their resources to meet their needs
- Each family has its own unique needs, and these needs change continuously. **THEREFORE**, services for the family:
  1. must be flexible to accommodate the dynamic nature of each family;
  2. must be individualized; and
  3. must respect cultural diversity.



Assessment, planning and intervention should be conducted as an integrated and ongoing process.

- Families have natural support systems which, when utilized, provide families many opportunities to mobilize their own resources to meet their needs. **THEREFORE**, service providers should facilitate the family's use of natural supports in the community.
- A child's development occurs within the context of everyday experiences of the child and the family. **THEREFORE**, family support should be broadly defined in order to respond to the needs of all family members; support should be designed to occur within the most natural setting for the child and family.
- Service provision will be most effective if emphasis is placed upon building on family strengths. **THEREFORE**, assistance should be given in ways that utilize numerous family strengths.

- Children deserve the opportunity to develop to their potential within the most optimal education/programmatic settings possible. THEREFORE, every effort should be made to provide opportunities to develop and learn in optimal settings which may include experiences with non-handicapped peers.
- All children, regardless of ability, belong with families and need enduring relationships with adults. THEREFORE, every child should have the right to a stable home environment and stable relationships whenever possible, efforts should be directed towards reunification of the natural family. When families cannot be reunited, adoption should be explored, with foster care as an interim arrangement if needed.
- Communities vary widely in their resources and in the needs of their families. THEREFORE, local agencies should implement the objectives of the state plan based upon their community's unique needs and resources. The role of the Local Interagency Coordinating Council is critical to the implementation process.
- A broad array of services are required to meet the needs of families and children, and families should not be overwhelmed by a multitude of service providers. THEREFORE, agencies should coordinate and streamline their services and families should have a service coordinator available to them.
- The various dimensions of child development (e.g., cognitive, social, physical, emotional) are interrelated and interdependent. THEREFORE, services to enhance the development of children with disabilities must be provided in a comprehensive and integrated fashion. When feasible, services should be provided by transdisciplinary teams.
- Disability-specific distinctions for young children from birth to five should be non-categorical when appropriate. THEREFORE, services should be based on each child's individual needs.
- The state of North Carolina has made a commitment to find and serve children with or at risk for disabilities and their families. The Governor's Interagency Coordinating Council For Children With Disabilities Ages Birth To Five and Their Families (NC-ICC) pledges its support in these efforts.

