

Natural Environment Service Delivery Requirement for NBES Providers

IDEA's Definition of "Natural Environment"

Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities receive needed early intervention services in natural environments to the maximum extent appropriate. The 2011 regulations for Part define the term as follows:

§303.26 Natural environments.

Natural environments means settings that are natural or typical for a same-aged infant or toddler without a disability, may include the home or community settings, and must be consistent with the provisions of §303.126.

§303.344(d)(1) requires that the identification of the early intervention service needed, as well as the appropriate setting for providing each service to an infant or toddler with a disability, be individualized decisions made by the IFSP Team based on that child's unique needs, family routines, and developmental outcomes. If a determination is made by the IFSP Team that, based on a review of all relevant information regarding the unique needs of the child, the child cannot satisfactorily achieve the identified early intervention outcomes in natural environments, then services could be provided in another environment (e.g. clinic, hospital, service provider's office). In such cases, a justification must be included in the IFSP... ([76 Fed. Reg. at 60158](#)) <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-09-28/pdf/2011-22783.pdf>

"Natural environments mean settings that are natural or typical for an infant or toddler without a disability.... **We do not believe that a clinic, hospital or service provider's office is a natural environment for an infant or toddler without a disability; therefore, such a setting would not be natural for an infant or toddler with a disability**" - *The Department of Education*

I understand and commit to the requirement of Provider Service Delivery in the Natural Environment and the guiding principles of IDEA Part C as necessary for participation in the North Beaches Early Steps System of Care.

Provider's Signature

Date