

WVBTT PROFESSIONAL TEAM MEMBERS

A family's team will consist of state licensed practitioners, certified specialists and service coordinators who have been trained to work with children in need of early intervention services. Below is brief description of the role that each discipline will participate as part of a family's team.

Audiologist: A specialist who evaluates and provides assessments for people with hearing loss and deafness.



Counselor: A specialist who is trained to assist families in understanding their child's special needs and how to cope with the everyday pressures and emotional feelings associated with raising a child with developmental delays.

Developmental Specialist: A Developmental Specialist provides families with the information skills and support needed to enhance the child's development including designing learning environments, curriculum planning related to the materials, and activities and strategies that will help achieve the child's outcomes. This specialist typically has an understanding of general development across all developmental areas, and may have specific areas of specialty such as promoting learning strategies, parent and child relationships, social emotional development, adapting everyday activities to help the child learn, or helping other caregivers in settings such as childcare to know how to enhance the child's development, and include the child in typical activities.

Hearing Specialist: The Hearing Specialist assists families in understanding the type and severity of the hearing loss, provides unbiased information on communication options and coaches families in intervention strategies that are embedded in daily activities and routines where children learn. The Hearing Specialist provides the family with resources related to hearing loss and can support the team in providing quality services and supports. This specialist is knowledgeable of a variety of modes of communication including sign, auditory aural, auditory verbal, cued speech, total communication, etc., and can provide information to the family and IFSP team on educational acoustics in the home and other locations where the child spends time.

Nurse: A trained specialist who is knowledgeable in the evaluation of how specific medical conditions impact the health and development of young children. This specialist can provide parents with information and support as well as make recommendations to assist parents in working more closely with their child's primary care providers and/or other medical specialists.

Nutritionist: A specialist trained in the evaluation and assessment of feeding and nutritional problems. This specialist can provide parents with information and support as well as make recommendations to assist parents in working more closely with the child's primary care providers and/or other medical specialists.

Occupational Therapist: A specialist in the evaluation and assessment of developmental disorders with emphasis on fine motor and perceptual motor skills, sensory integration, and functional activities of daily living. Some of these specialists may also have knowledge in oral motor and feeding disorders.

Psychologist: A specialist who is trained to perform psychological and educational testing, evaluation, and intervention strategies.

Physical Therapist: A specialist in the evaluation and assessment of sensorimotor delay and disorder with emphasis on gross motor, balance, walking, and general mobility and functional skills.

Service Coordinator: The service coordinator provides parents with the information, skills and confidence they need to identify, obtain, coordinate, and evaluate resources and services on their own. Their role is to coordinate assessments, IFSP planning, the evaluation and delivery of services listed on the IFSP, transition, advocacy, and help in the completion of necessary forms and paperwork. A service coordinator also assists with coordinating other services, programs, or resources the child and family might be receiving or in need of receiving.

Social Worker: A specialist who is trained in the evaluation and assessment of child and family issues arising from family life circumstances.

Special Educator: A specialist who is trained in the evaluation and assessment of specific developmental disorders such as autism, intellectual disabilities or severe behavioral issues.

Speech and Language Therapist: A specialist in the evaluation and assessment of disorders of speech articulation and communication, including receptive and expressive language. This specialist may also have areas of specialty such as feeding, oral motor or augmentative communication.

Vision Specialist: A trained specialist in the evaluation and assessment of children with ocular impairments that cause low vision or blindness. A vision specialist should be a team member as soon as the child has a diagnosis of a visual impairment from an ophthalmologist. The vision specialist coaches the families in intervention strategies embedded in their daily routines and provides resources and supports for the entire team serving a child with a visual impairment. Some specialists also have additional knowledge and training in working with children with Cortical Visual Impairments.

