

Let's Go!

# DEFINITIONS

For Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

## Disabilities

**INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (ID)** is a group of conditions characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning (i.e. reasoning, learning, problem solving) and in adaptive behavior (i.e. social and practical skills). This disability originates before the age of 18.<sup>1</sup>

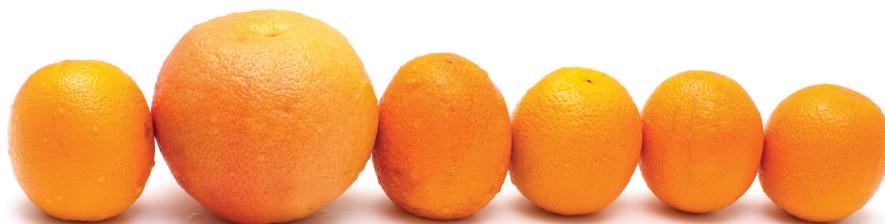
**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (DD)** is an umbrella term that includes intellectual disability as well as other disabilities that are apparent during childhood until the age of 22. DDs are likely to be lifelong and can be physical, cognitive, or both. Some examples of DDs include autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, epilepsy, fetal alcohol syndrome, fragile X syndrome, and spina bifida.<sup>1</sup>

## Services and Plans

**BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION PLAN (BIP)** is a written plan developed by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst or psychologist to help a child replace problem behaviors with desirable behaviors. It includes a description of the problem behavior, an explanation of why the behavior occurs, and intervention strategies. It can be a stand-alone document or can be attached to an existing education or service plan.<sup>2</sup>

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (CDS)** is a division of the Maine Department of Education that provides early intervention and special education services for children from birth through age 5. Regional CDS sites provide case management services and conduct screenings and evaluations to identify children who are eligible for services.<sup>3</sup>

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**INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)** is a written plan for a child with a disability, age 3-20, that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with specific criteria described in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. An education program, based upon the child’s individual needs, is developed at an IEP meeting at least once a year.<sup>4</sup>

**INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN (IFSP)** is a written plan for providing early intervention services for a child with I/DD and their family. An IFSP is legally required for all children birth through age 2 who receive services through the Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).<sup>5</sup>

**INDIVIDUAL TREATMENT PLAN (ITP)** is a written plan designed to meet a child’s daily living, social, and behavioral needs. Needs must qualify as medically necessary in order to be approved. This plan describes services delivered by Behavioral Health Professionals.<sup>6</sup>

**SPECIAL EDUCATION** is defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as “specially designed instruction, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability, including— (i) instruction conducted in the classroom, in the home, in hospitals and institutions, and in other settings; and (ii) instruction in physical education.”<sup>4</sup>

**TRANSITION SERVICES** are services that schools are required to provide under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for students with disabilities to help them prepare for life after high school. Services must begin no later than 9th grade or at age 16. These services are described in the IEP.<sup>4</sup>

1 Definition of Intellectual Disability. American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. [aaidd.org/intellectual-disability/definition](http://aaidd.org/intellectual-disability/definition). Accessed on June 12, 2016.

2 Drasgow E, Yell M, Bradley R, and Shriner J. The IDEA Amendments of 1997: A School-Wide Model for Conducting Functional Behavioral Assessments and Developing Behavior Intervention Plans. *Education and Treatment of Children*. 1999. Vol. 22, (Issue 3): 224-266.

3 Maine Department of Education. Child Development Services. [www.maine.gov/doe/cds/](http://www.maine.gov/doe/cds/). Accessed on June 15, 2016.

4 U.S. Department of Education. Building the Legacy: IDEA 2004. [idea.ed.gov](http://idea.ed.gov). Accessed on June 15, 2016.

5 AccessMaine. Early Intervention Toolkit. [www.accessmaine.org/Toolkits/EarlyIntervention/earlyinter-IFSP](http://www.accessmaine.org/Toolkits/EarlyIntervention/earlyinter-IFSP). Accessed on June 15, 2016.

6 State of Maine. Department of Health and Human Services. Section 28 Rehabilitative and Community Support Services Provider. [www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cbhs/provider/forms/section-28.html](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/cbhs/provider/forms/section-28.html). Accessed on June 15, 2016.