

THE BABYNET BRIEF

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](#) and [BabyNet Procedures for EI Services in Natural Environments](#).
- Early intervention services:
 - must be provided in settings that are natural or typical for a same-aged infant or toddler without a disability to the maximum extent appropriate;
 - Clinics, hospitals, service provider offices, and childcare spaces away from the other children (empty classroom, hallway, etc.) are NOT considered the child's natural environment.
 - may be provided in other settings ONLY when the services cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment and must be documented and justified in the IFSP. Parent or provider preference is not a valid reason.
- The IFSP team decides where each EI service will be provided based on the measurable results or measurable outcomes expected to be achieved by the child. ([See Outcome writing guidance](#)). Natural environments and routines are individualized and identified during the Routines-based Interview (family assessment).

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