



# Families' Perception to Interdisciplinary Care for Children (0 to 3) with Special Needs



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## Introduction

Family centered care is considered one of the best approaches to implement when working with the family and child in the health care field. This process entails of working alongside parents as equals in order to develop goals and an appropriate plan of care throughout the child's therapeutic services<sup>6</sup>. These services consist of an interdisciplinary approach consisting of a wide-range of disciplines to provide the necessary care for these families. Despite families having an overall positive response to these services, improvements can be made. Previous research that has examined families' perceptions towards coordinated services described the lack of general information presented towards the families<sup>11</sup>. For instance, families stressed the importance understanding the therapeutic services presented to them and desire more information regarding their child's diagnosis and additional resources to progress them through therapy<sup>6,7,8,9,10</sup>.

## Objectives

The purpose of the study is to survey families with special needs age 0 to 3 towards their perception of early intervention services. The researcher will examine themes parents disclose during the interview towards early intervention services. The responses given by participants may showcase any needs and improvement towards early intervention services and family centered care. A qualitative research design will be used to examine the phenomenon of this study.



## Method

Families participated in a semi-structured interview sharing their experiences with early intervention services towards their child with special needs. A thematic analysis was conducted on the transcribed interviews of the families.

## Results

Participants shared their thoughts about early intervention services. Four themes emerged: guidance and support, respect, lack of resources, and need of general knowledge. The research is still an ongoing project as more themes may develop in the process.

## Conclusion

The current research reflects on family experiences towards early interview services. Statements from participants acknowledge the respect and care that EI providers share to the families. As forementioned in previous literature, families would benefit from a more thorough explanation of the medical diagnosis and associated challenges of their child. It may also be recommended for service providers to share additional resources to benefit the family's care as well.

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