

ONLINE VISITS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION DURING DISASTERS

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Actuality. In Ukraine, the early childhood intervention service is focused on: family-centered, routine-oriented and transdisciplinary. The most effective way of providing early intervention services is home visits. However, since the period of the pandemic and at the present time of the war in Ukraine, home visits are often impossible. Therefore, we started using the online format in our work.

The online format allows us to remain routinely oriented in the way that we can discuss ordinary family affairs and watch the interaction of parents and the child on the screen. With the help of the online format, we ensure the continuity of the service by maintaining weekly meetings with families, even if the families had to travel abroad or are internally displaced.

Stages of ECI technology	Offline meeting	Online meeting
First meeting with the family	Can be organized at home or in the center. Family with a child and 2 ECI specialists are present. One early intervention specialist talks to the parents, asks them questions and records the parents' answers on a form. The second specialist observes the child's behavior, enters the data of his observations into the form of the first meeting. The form is filled in in 2 copies: one for parents and one for the specialist	Meeting is organized in ZOOM, Viber, MS Teams or other. Parents are warned that they can send short videos recording the normal activities of the child and the behavior that confuses them. Family with a child and 1 or 2 ECI specialists are present online. Early intervention specialist talks to the parents, asks them questions and records the parents' answers on a form. The second specialist observes the child's behavior during the online visit (if it's possible) or, enters the data of his observations into the form of the first meeting.
Result: the main difficulties of the family are determined, the child's behavior is described, the strengths and difficulties of the child and parents are determined, it is determined whether the family meets the criteria for inclusion in the early intervention service.		
Team discussion (ECI team without parents)	Considering whether the family meets the criteria for inclusion in the early intervention service. Choosing the main primary provider of the family	Online meeting. Considering whether the family meets the criteria for inclusion in the early intervention service. Choosing the main primary provider of the family

Routine Based Interview (by R. McWilliam)	Can be organized at home or in the center. Parents without a child and 1 or 2 ECI specialists are present. Continuation: 1,5-2 hours. Organized in a form of semi-structured interview.	Meeting is organized in ZOOM, Viber, MS Teams or other. Parents without a child and 1 or 2 ECI specialists are present. Continuation: 1,5-2 hours (can be divided into two meetings). The specialists are sending the form to parents via e-mail or in any messenger.
Results: the list of priorities, with which the family will work. The form is filled in in 2 copies: one for parents and one for the specialist.		

Creating of Goal matrix with parents, creating of Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)	4-6 weekly meetings with family. Discussing and creating the list of functional goals with family.	4-6 weekly online meetings with family. Discussing and creating the list of functional goals with family. While working with the goals formulating we can use screen sharing. The specialists are sending the form to parents via e-mail or in any messenger.
Results: The list of 10-15 functional goals for a child and goals for parents and for family. The form is filled in in 2 copies: one for parents and one for the specialist.		
Implementation of IFSP, weekly meetings with families	Weekly meetings of a family provider with families at home (or other location where the family is experiencing difficulties) or at an early intervention center. Each meeting is 50 minutes. Work with family goals. After 6 months - assessment of goal achievement.	Weekly online meetings of a family provider with families. Each meeting is 50 minutes. Work with family goals. Families are sharing video and photo-materials, After 6 months - assessment of goal achievement.
Result: Evaluation of the effectiveness of achieving goals. Starting new Goal Matrix and IFSP.		



Transition program	It begins 0.6-1.0 years before leaving the early intervention program. Cooperation of parents, early intervention specialists with the Inclusive Resource Center and support team in kindergarten. Meetings can be organized at home, in an early intervention center, in a kindergarten or in an inclusive resource center.	It begins 0.6-1.0 years before leaving the early intervention program. Cooperation of parents, early intervention specialists with the Inclusive Resource Center and support team in kindergarten. Meetings can be organized at home, in an early intervention center, in a kindergarten or in an inclusive resource center.
Result: family and the child starting to attend kindergarten. The ECI program ends, but the program of family support and development of a child continues in the kindergarten.		

Conclusion.

We compared the level of achievement of goals in families who received the service offline and online, using a goal matrix with criteria for achieving goals. It turned out that the level of achievement of goals does not depend on the online or offline format of work. Families note the importance of continuing to provide early intervention services during the war. They note that regular meetings, with using digital technologies is important and powerful support for the whole family and contribute to the stabilization of the mental state of both parents and the child.

References.

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