

Appropriate level of support in early age- from early assessment to early intervention



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Introduction:

- Day Care Center Mali dom Zagreb in Croatia is recognized institution for early assessment and early intervention.
- Through our assessment program we perform around 500 assessments per year for children from birth to 6 years.
- In our early intervention program (from 0 to 3 years) we have 60 families per year in family oriented approach.
- Through all our programs we have established transdisciplinary approach, which requires specific strategies and skilfull team with strong communication skills.



A great responsibility in the assesment itself refers to:

- The time appropriate detection of children with developmental risk
- The detection of children who need continous developmental support
- Determine what level of the support is appropriate:
 - Monitoring
 - Surveillance
 - Determine eligibility for early intervention programm
- Determine how one developmental area can influence other developmental areas
- Determine the child's current abilities
- Enables insight to child` and families strenghts and challenges
- Precedes the creation of an educational-rehabilitation program in early intervention and a support plan
- Evaluates the child progress and effectiveness of the early intervention programm

Methods:

In the last year, in Day Care Center Mali dom-Zagreb 563 assessments were carried out on 242 children

80% children age were 0-3 years

59% children were from the capitol city – Zagreb,

41% children were from the other places and regions in Croatia

Most of the children are involved in medical diagnostic and medical model of support

A part of the children are already involved in early intervention program

Out of the total number of assessed children, 10% joined our program

30% children are referred to other programs

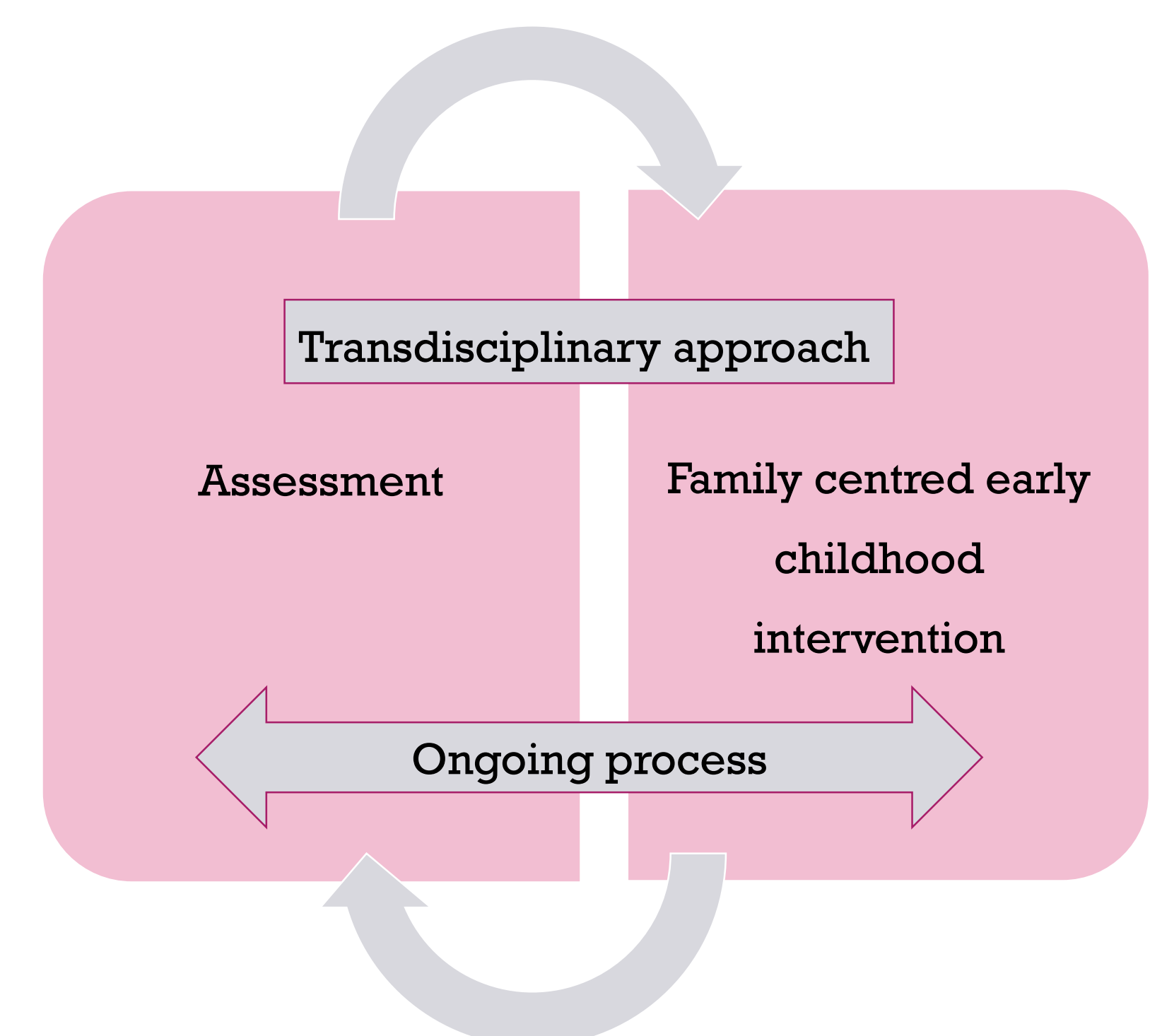
Heterogenous population

Children with high neurodevelopmental risk

Children with developmental disorders

Children with multiple disabilities

In most children there is a suspicion of problems in visual functioning (ocular, Cerebral visual impairment)



- We conduct the assesment by applying some principles of **arena assesment** (holistic/ transdisciplinary team approach) in which the parents are partners
- Depends of children and family needs our assessment is prognostic, instructional, functional and advisory
- We use various standardized and non-standardized instruments, protocols and opservational skills

Standardized tests

- Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale (NBAS)
- General movements assessment (GM)
 - Infant Motor profile (IMP)
 - Teller Acuity Card, Lea Gratings
 - Hiding Heidi, Mail Box
- Bayley Scale of Infant and Toddler Development 3

Conclusion:

- The earlier a child is identified as having a developmental delay or disability, the more likely they are to benefit from strategies targeted towards their needs
- With a heterogenous population, the optimal way to respond to their needs is a transdisciplinary team approach within the framework of functional and advisory assessment
- Combination of the use of tests and observational skills has been shown to be useful in determining the children needs and appropriate level of support
- Working as a transdisciplinary team reduces the likelihood of confusion for the family by reducing the number of people and disciplines with which they need to interact
- Family centred early childhood intervention is a basic tool which can enhance child and families well-being, appreciating the diversity of the child and the family needs

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