

ETHICS, BOUNDARIES, PROFESSIONALISM AND CULTURAL AWARENESS



ETHICS

“THE SCIENCE OR STUDY
OF MORALITY, OR OF
WHAT IS RIGHT AND
WRONG.”

EIS CODE OF ETHICS

- Guidelines for responsible behavior and decision making
- Not a set of rules
- Ethical decision making is a process
- Simple answers are not always available



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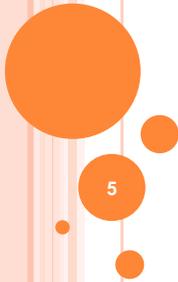
EIS CODE OF ETHICS (CONTINUED)

- Expectations and core values
 - Responsibility to families and colleagues
 - Flexibility
 - Honesty and Integrity
- Respect individual and cultural differences



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WHAT DO WE MEAN BY A
RESPONSIBILITY TO FAMILIES AND
COLLEAGUES? FLEXIBILITY?
HONESTY AND INTEGRITY?



HOW DOES CULTURE PLAY A
ROLE?

PROFESSIONALISM AND BOUNDARIES



- **PROFESSIONALISM:** The standards or practice by which a person must abide to adequately perform the duties of their work and still assist the family.
- **BOUNDARIES:** Need to be set to delineate and separate the professional from the family/ child.

ETHICS AND THE 7 KEY PRINCIPLES

- “Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people and familiar contexts”
- “**All** families with necessary support can enhance their childrens’ lives”
- “the early intervention process.....must be dynamic and individualized to reflect the child’s and family’s preference, learning styles and cultural beliefs”

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WHAT MIGHT BE SOME COMPROMISING SITUATIONS?



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SCENARIOS-REMEMBER THE DECISION MAKING RUBRIC?

- R = Recognize a dilemma
- A = Analyze the options
- D = Develop a plan
- A = Act according to plan
- R = Reflect on decision



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SCENARIO 1-A : ETHICS

- You are a new EIS who just moved to a new city, and are assigned to a family located in an area close to where you live. The family consists of a mother and father, Jeanie and Rob, with a 24-month-old son named Zack. Zack loves to go to the park and play with his dog. You helped the family with the evaluation and have been doing SST with her son once a week for a month.
- During the course of casual conversation you have both realized you have a lot in common. You have a 26 month old son who also loves to go to the park and you have a dog. You enjoy each others' company. She has your cell phone number and has called you about her son.
- She has started calling often and discussing a lot of other things. She asks if you want to do some play dates together since your sons like to do the same things, and you live pretty close. She thinks your son might help her son with some of his delays, and since you are new to the area, you don't know a lot of people either.

What would you do?

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SCENARIO 1-B: ETHICS

- You've been working with Jeannie and her son Zack about 6 months now. Her husband Rob is usually off on business trips and isn't around when you have your home visits. Jeannie begins to tell you about how she suspects that her husband is having an affair, since she is starting to see strange numbers on his cell phone. She asks your advice on what she should do and she offers take you out to coffee in return for your help.

What would you do?

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SCENARIO 1-C: ETHICS

- Now you've been with Jeannie for a year and Zach is soon to transition out of the program. Jeannie and Rob are now getting a divorce because she told you he was having an affair. You have been subpoenaed to testify on her behalf.



What would you do?

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SCENARIO 2: ETHICS

- You are a service coordinator and have a male EIS on your team, Jeremy, who covers a largely rural area in west Texas. Jeremy has been assigned to a family in a small town 200 miles from your home base. The family consists of a mother, father, and a 14-month old son, Efraim, who is receiving services. You have received a call from the father stating that he does not want his wife and son alone in his home with a strange male he doesn't know.

What would you do?

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SCENARIO 3: ETHICS

- You are an EIS who is working with an 18-year old single mom, Rhonda. Her daughter, Bethany, was born at 36 weeks and is now 15 months old. Rhonda is going to school to get her GED. She lives with her mother, Ruth, who was also a single mom.
- Each time you meet with Rhonda, Ruth insists on being at the appointment. When you meet with the two of them, Rhonda has some suggestions of ideas, but the outcomes always end up being what the grandmother decides, because "Rhonda doesn't know much-she's only 18", according to Ruth. The grandmother also thinks this is all a big "fuss"; she thinks her granddaughter Bethany is fine and doesn't understand why she is getting all of this attention.

What would you do?

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SCENARIO 4: ETHICS

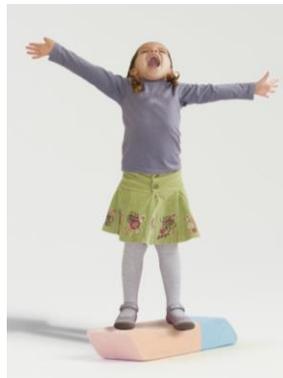
- You are working with a 6-month old who is being take care of by a full-time 20-year- old nanny. The parents are both lawyers who are very busy, but at least one is home every evening. They trust their nanny. Although you wrote the plan with the mother, the nanny is the one you meet with each time. The nanny is studying early childhood development at a local college. She often disagrees with you on what you suggest and says she knows the child better than anyone, plus, “she knows what she’s talking about- she’s taking classes.” You don’t think the child is progressing.

What would you do?

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PONDER THESE AS WE LEAVE....

- What are ethics? boundaries? professionalism?
- Why are these important?
- How does culture play a role?
- Besides being unethical, how might engaging the family in a personal relationship not be beneficial to them?



Thank you!

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