



MEDIATION

- It's **FREE**, **STATEWIDE** and **EFFECTIVE**
- Can help preserve or repair relationships
- Can happen at any time during the relationship
- Does not impose a solution by an outside party
- Offers the opportunity to talk about the real issues, not just those that are deemed relevant in formal proceedings
- Does not delay or deny due process rights
- Allows parties to create their own agreements; people tend to keep agreements they create

To learn more about mediation and facilitated IFSP meetings please contact



MEDIATION CLINIC

William H. Bowen School of Law
Arkansas Early Intervention Mediation Project
1201 McMath Avenue, Room 105
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
501-916-5404
ualr.at/earlymediation



IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING



**ARKANSAS EARLY INTERVENTION
MEDIATION PROJECT**

WHAT IS MEDIATION?

Mediation is a **voluntary** and **confidential** dispute resolution process. It offers families and providers the chance to **work with each other** and address a child's developmental needs. Mediation **helps people talk** and work hard on the problem without being hard on the people. The focus is **working together** to find a solution that is in the **best interest of the family**.

WHO IS A MEDIATOR?

A mediator is an **independent** third party who helps identify, discuss and understand different points of view and issues. They help parties create options and find solutions that are agreeable to everyone.



WHAT A MEDIATOR IS NOT

Mediators **do not make decisions** for the parties. A mediator **will not give legal, financial, or professional advice**.



FACILITATION VS. MEDIATION

	FACILITATION	MEDIATION
OBJECTIVE	Improve the process for developing an IFSP	Help the parties negotiate a resolution to a defined dispute
TIMING	Intervene when parties realize discussion will be difficult and complex; BEFORE any impasse is identified	Intervene AFTER parties have reached an impasse
PROCESS	Voluntary	Voluntary
METHOD	Agenda driven. The role of a neutral is to help with <i>meeting process</i>	Issue driven. The role of the neutral is to help with <i>collaborative problem solving</i>
ATTENDEES	IFSP Team; Attorneys are allowed	Parties who are able to make decisions or have necessary information; Attorneys are NOT allowed
OUTCOME	IFSP developed or not	Written agreement
FOCUS	Conflict Prevention	Conflict Resolution
WHO CAN REQUEST	Parents, providers and coordinators	Parents, providers and coordinators
COST	Free	Free
LENGTH	1½ hours allotted	3 hours allotted

The Arkansas Early Intervention Mediation Project at the UA Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law offers parents and educators the chance to work with each other and address a child's special education needs without being hard on the people. Funding for these projects is provided by the Arkansas Department of Education.

WHAT IS AN IFSP?

An **IFSP** or **Individual Family Service Plan** is a written plan that maps out the family's goals for their child's early learning and the **Early Intervention** services necessary to meet those goals, as well as how and when these services will be provided. It details your child's current levels of functioning, specific needs and goals for learning and development.

Generally, a **facilitated IFSP meeting** is requested when there are **communication challenges in regards to the child's needs**. The IFSP is developed around family priorities, strengths and needs, and includes features designed to support the entire family.



WHAT FACILITATORS DO

Facilitation **promotes satisfaction** for the group members. It is a process in which a person intervenes to assist the group's effectiveness by helping to identify issues, **establishing common objectives** and help the group to achieve those objectives in a timely manner. In an IFSP meeting, the basic outline is set by federal and state requirements and the facilitator will help the parties identify issues and **create a mutually agreed upon agenda** in advance of the meeting.