

## **Principles to Guide Iowa's System of Developmental Services for Children and Their Families**

### **On Behalf of Children All Decisions Should**

1. Enhance the opportunity for all children to be free of the effects of inherited and acquired disease or disability.
2. Emphasize prevention of developmental problems.
3. Recognize the need for the early detection and treatment or correction of developmental disorders.
4. Facilitate the provision of health, educational, and social opportunities for all children to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for them to become competent, caring and contributing adults.
5. Assure that the developmental progress of all children is frequently and appropriately monitored and reported back to parents.

### **On Behalf of Children's Families All Decisions Should:**

1. Recognize that preparation for parenthood and support for parents are critical factors for determining successful development of children.
2. Assure that each family has access to resources sufficient to meet the child's health, learning, social, and emotional needs.
3. Enhance parents' access to information so they may make appropriate decisions on behalf of their children.
4. Facilitate communication in the family's language and within their cultural context.
5. Ensure all services and/or supports are flexible and individualized; directed by individual family strengths, needs and choices; and responsive to the changing needs of the children and families.
6. Assure that families are involved in the design and modification of systems and programs for developmental services, especially as it relates to their children.

### **On Behalf of Communities Serving Children and Families All Decisions Should:**

1. Ensure that all community agencies, organizations and individuals providing direct developmental services or support services demonstrate the collaboration that is essential for them to be effective and efficient.
2. Assure that all needed developmental supports and resources are appropriate, accessible, available, affordable, and accountable.
3. Support opportunities for all Iowans to be aware of the developmental needs of children and their families, and of the resources necessary to meet those needs.