Role of the Social Worker

1. Prepare a social or emotional developmental assessment of the child within the family context (testing)
2. Provide individual and family group counseling with parents and other family members and appropriate social skill-building activities with the child and parents
3. Assist family in working with problems in the child’s or family’s living situation (home, community, and any location where early intervention services are provided) that affect the child’s maximum utilization of early intervention services;
4. Identify, mobilize, and coordinate community resources and services to enable the child and family to receive maximum benefit from early intervention services.
5. Support the core team and work with the family in the implementation of the IFSP.
6. Consultation in areas of parent and child interactions, family dynamics, mental health, domestic violence, and crisis intervention.
7. Consultation with Early Intervention therapists related to infant and toddler development and family needs.
8. Provide home visits to parent or guardians, or discussions with other involved professionals, such as psychologists or doctors regarding the care and treatment of a child.
9. Participate in the comprehensive evaluation, looking at each area of a child’s life to see how he might benefit from early intervention services. Social workers may help to identify and assess potential psychosocial or community resource needs, such as childcare, food or clothing.
10. Provide consultation and training to other members of an early intervention team regarding family needs.
11. Provide clinical consultation services on a variety of issues that can affect a child’s development and progress in the program, such as parent-child interactions, domestic violence, mental health issues or neglect and refer to other professionals as needed.
12. They can lead and/or participate in child groups, parent groups, parent support groups, center and home visits and consult with team members regarding clinical issues.
13. Provide service coordination.
14. Assist family in exploring feelings and changes families will incur due to their child’s diagnosis.
15. Explore family’s feelings of isolation in a variety of situations (family, friends, and social situations) and assist the family in finding resources.
16. Assist family in understanding their role in Early Intervention
17. Assist family in connecting to resources and support services
18. Provide individual and family counseling on the impact of having a child with a disability on marriage, siblings, and extended family.
19. Assist parents with expectations of their child’s development and educational needs
20. Provide support to foster families, kinship families, grandparents raising grandchildren and siblings in exploring feelings of raising a child with a diagnosis or multiple needs
21. Assist in bridging the gap between a child who is in foster care and the natural parents.
22. Assist parents in determining their own needs
23. Provide CPS mandatory reporter duties