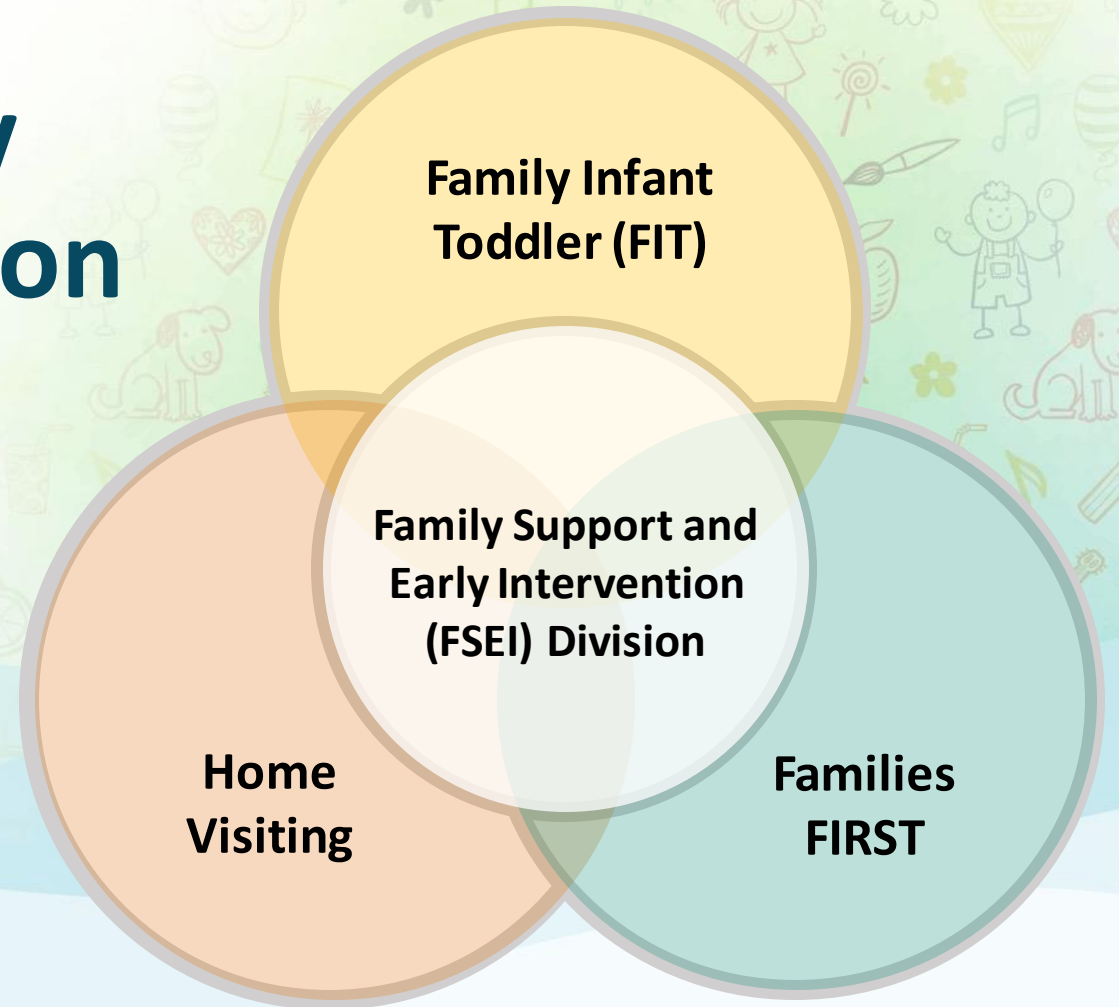


An Introduction to **Family Support and Early Intervention (FSEI) Division**

Presented by:

*Leah Davidson, MS, Family Infant Toddler
Program, FIT Bureau Chief/Part C Coordinator*



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department

Home Visiting

Are you pregnant or do you have a young child in your life who is under the age of five? Would you like to be visited by an expert in promoting healthy family/child relationships? Home Visiting has you covered!

- **Origin Story: Home Visiting** has its roots in the **social work** and **child welfare** fields. It was born out of a desire to **prevent** barriers to family health like child abuse/neglect, poverty, and family isolation
- **Special Offerings: Home Visiting** is uniquely equipped to use a multi-generational approach to support healthy attachment and school readiness for New Mexico's children. **Home Visiting is for everyone.** All families need support in early parenthood and Home Visiting is here to help

Home Visitors have specific expertise in:

- Parent/child interaction and healthy attachment behaviors
- School readiness
- Breastfeeding support and promotion
- Breaking cycles of violence/abuse
- Monitoring child development and parent mental health

The Prevention to Intervention Continuum

From promotion to intervention, FSEI joins a family within the context of their language, culture, and treasured traditions



Promotion

- Home Visiting
- Families FIRST



Prevention

- Home Visiting
- Families FIRST
- Family Infant Toddler (FIT)



Intervention

- Home Visiting
- Families FIRST
- FIT



Families FIRST

Do you have Medicaid? Are you pregnant or do you have a baby under three in your family? Would you like to be supported by a Registered Nurse? Families FIRST has you covered!

- **Origin Story:** comes from the **Nurse Case Management** world and was originally designed as a **prevention** and **intervention** program to support the health and wellbeing of expectant mothers and families with babies and toddlers
- **Special Offerings:** **ONLY Families FIRST** provides services to every family by a **Registered Nurse** with expertise in helping families with any medical concerns for themselves or their baby, helping mothers recover from difficult pregnancies and/or deliveries, and helping the family navigate their community to access needed supports
- **Families FIRST is for any family with Medicaid**

Nurses have specific expertise in:

- Supporting families with a medically fragile baby or toddler
- Supporting mothers who experienced medical complications during pregnancy or delivery
- Helping families access services to meet their basic needs

Family Infant Toddler (FIT)

Do you have an infant or toddler that doesn't seem to be developing like other children you have observed? Are you worried that your child seems to learn more slowly than you expected? FIT is here for you!

- **Origin Story:** FIT has its roots in the **education** and **disabilities** field. It was added to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1986 to ensure that infants and toddlers with disabilities got support at birth instead of waiting until preschool or kindergarten
- **Special Offerings:** FIT is uniquely positioned to help both families and early childhood educators help children who are experiencing developmental delay or disability fully participate in their home and community life

FIT Interventionists have specific expertise in teaching the important adults in a child's life to help the child:

- Move around their environment, communicate, and develop social relationships with more ease
- Participate in family/child care routines such as mealtime, nap time, and transitioning between activities
- Use playthings to learn about the world around them

Two Myths *and a Truth*



Find the **Truth!**

- Families must **choose** one program – they cannot be enrolled in all three
- All three programs **support adults** to support the children in their lives
- Families FIRST and Home Visiting are **free** to families, but some families will have to pay a co-pay for FIT



More Details About Each Program

- The ECECD website has details for each program
- Let's go there to check them out!
 - ◆ [FamiliesFIRST Brochure May-2022 English.pdf \(nmececd.org\)](#)
 - ◆ [FIT Families | Early Childhood Education & Care Department \(nmececd.org\)](#)
 - ◆ [Home Visiting | Early Childhood Education & Care Department \(nmececd.org\)](#)



FSEI Contact Information

Mayra A. Gutierrez, Family Support and Early Intervention Division Director

Phone: 505-660-7738

Email: mayra.gutierrez@ececd.nm.gov

Johanna Kehoe, Family Support and Early Intervention Deputy Division Director

Phone: 505-660-7435

Email: johannad.kehoe@ececd.nm.gov

Josephine Salas, Acting Home Visiting Bureau Chief

Phone: 505-469-0874

Email: josephine.salas@ececd.nm.gov

Kristi Romero, Families FIRST Bureau Chief

Phone: 505-660-9079

Email: kristi.romero@ececd.nm.gov

Leah Davidson, FIT Bureau Chief

Phone: 505-470-2933

Email: leahc.davidson@ececd.nm.gov



NEW MEXICO

Early Childhood

Education & Care Department