**Top 10 Points from Early Intervention and Services**

1. There are numerous resources available in our community. You don’t need to be the one-man-band answer for this child.

🡨 Do not try to be this guy!



Instead, be the hub of the communication web with the SSP as your sidekick for the good of the child and family! 🡪

1. To find resources, ask your Supervisor, review the [VFC directory](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bAGEuwVLooe9mWonewPUeSN0v5Fw0DRjto4N5OOQeIc/edit?usp=sharing), or research until you find a match to present to your child’s team. Do not make a referral to services by yourself!
2. The policies we require create healthy boundaries for a child who may have never seen them modeled.
3. We serve youth ages 0-21. Youth who turn 18 in foster care can become Nonminor Dependents if they choose; they can also consent to continued service from a CASA.
4. There are three main categories for court cases:
   1. Family Reunification: the family is separate but working towards living together
   2. Family Maintenance: the family is living together but the county/court is still monitoring safety and progress. Much of decisions are left to the parents in this stage.
   3. Post Permanency: Family is no longer trying to reunify and a new plan must be identified, whether it is adoption, legal guardianship, or extended foster care.
5. Each hearing prompts a CASA report, a Social Service Practitioner’s Report, and, afterwards, a minute order. Only the minute order indicates what the judge ordered and authorized for the child.
6. SSP’s reports are lengthy, repetitive, and sometimes incorrect or missing info. Share details you learn with the SSP, even if they don’t respond back.
7. This role requires lots of follow-up phone calls and initiative.
8. You are *invited* to support the child by the judge. It’s your job to be the child’s trustworthy advocate, case historian, team cheerleader, enthusiastic member of this group project, and super-kind squeaky wheel for the child’s unmet needs.
9. Whenever you are stuck, feeling discouraged, or unsure how to proceed or, alternately, are excited, had a breakthrough of any size, or want to share a victory, call your supervisor. Attend a small group. Participate in continuing education to gain more skills. You are part of the VFC team and we are in this together!