Abstract

The authors give an overview of the history of Early Aid centers in Germany. The legislative basis for the services provided as well as the professional standards required to provide these services are explained. Changes in society and different needs of children today in comparison to the beginning of early intervention services are described with a case example illustrating the benefits of a family centred approach and interdepartmental cooperation.

Key words: Early intervention, policy, practice, Germany, complex aid

1 Ph.D., Fachhochschule Nordhausen, Germany, (E-mail: sohns@fh-nordhausen.de)
2 Ph.D., Fachhochschule für Gesundheit, Gera, Germany, (E-mail: annette.hartung@gesundheitshochschule-gera.de)
3 Ph.D., McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, (E-mail: krausdc@mcmaster.ca)