Lesson 1: Overview of Early Intervention and Education – Early Childhood Settings

This lesson discusses some of the early childhood settings in which paraprofessionals often work. For this activity, you will gather information about either the setting in which you currently work or the setting in which you would like to work. If you are currently working as a paraprofessional in an early childhood setting, answer the questions below about the program in which you work. You may already know some of the information. If not, gather additional information by speaking with early childhood teachers, administrators, or other staff within your program.

If you are not yet working in an early childhood setting, describe the program or setting in which you would like to work. Talk with early childhood teachers or other staff to gather more information if necessary.

Questions

1. Describe the type of early childhood setting in which you work (e.g., possible settings would include: center-based, home-based, Early Childhood Family Education, Head Start, etc.).

2. Describe the target group of children served by your program (e.g., age level, special needs, etc.).
3. What types of services are offered to the children and/or families within your program?

4. Identify the various types of professionals who work in the program. Examples might include teachers, special education teachers, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, and psychologists.

5. With whom of these professionals do you work and interact on a regular basis?

6. What do you like most about working in this particular setting?

7. What do you think is the most challenging aspect of working in this setting?