

Name and title of Lecturer:

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Title of Presentation:

Against separation – early intervention in Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine

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The main goal of developing early intervention in Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine shared by the staff of St. Petersburg Early Intervention Institute (EII) and their colleagues from Arkhangelsk, Novgorod (Russia), Minsk (Byelorussia), Kharkov (Ukraine) and Stockholm (Sweden) is to **prevent separation between children and parents**. Experiences and means to achieve this goal will be presented. We look at early intervention in Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia as a **question of children rights** and **human rights** in general. One of basic rights of children – to live with her/ his parents – is still dramatically violated in our countries. That's why we are not only developing professional programs but also taking part in children rights activities (e.g., EII participation in writing Alternative Report to UN on Convention of children rights). There are a lot of myths about disabled children and parents (children with Down syndrome have no potential of development, only professionals – not parents – can take care of disabled child, there is no use to support 'bad' family, etc.). That's why we work with changing attitudes of professionals and general public (excerpts from documentary films will be shown). The term 'early intervention' became fashionable in our countries but it is often misused by traditional defectology. Thus one of our important aims is to collect and spread evidence based knowledge in the field. CIS Early Intervention Association has been recently organized to unite our efforts in changing the system of care. Plans of further development of EII as an international resource center for Russia

and other former Soviet Union countries will be presented. We look at international cooperation in early intervention as one of the ways to oppose modern trends to re-start cold war.