



7 Practices of Effective Early Intervention Educators

Educators serve a valuable role on the early intervention team. Educational outcomes for children and families are directly related to how well educators align with research, recommended practices, and educator standards when providing early intervention services for families. Below are seven practices of effective early intervention educators.

1. Keep expertise current - Maintain a depth of knowledge about development, instructional strategies that engage children in everyday activities, and assessments that focus on child interests, functional activities, and parent priorities.
2. Partner with families - Partner with families using a coaching interaction style to engage families in opportunities to reflect on how their children's participation during and between visits is affecting their learning.
3. Collaborate with Others - Collaborate with team members from other disciplines to provide support where you have expertise and receive support to continuously build your own capacity.
4. Ongoing functional assessment - Engage families in an ongoing assessment process to identify what's working and what's not working so adjustments can be made to the intervention plan.
5. Use the family's natural routines - Learn from families what their natural activities and routines are and how families want their children to participate in those routines. Use families' actual routines as the context for your visit so caregivers get hands-on practice using the strategies you are teaching and children can benefit during the visit and between visits.

6. Promote responsive interactions - Spend time during visits listening to families and hearing what they like and what they want to improve about their children's participation and progress, and then make adjustments where needed.
7. Self-Reflect regularly - Spend time everyday reflecting on your practice and make specific plans for improving your knowledge and skills.