

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)



AAP Defines Best Practice in Early Intervention

"Rather than a "medical model" wherein a specific treatment is applied directly to the child for a specific malady, the paradigm is shifted to a contextual and consultation-based delivery of supports and services to the family and the infants." (p. e1077)



Focus of Early Intervention #1

Frequent learning opportunities in the natural learning environment instead of simulated treatment situations.



Key Elements

- Learning occurs as part of relationships. Intervention should enhance rather than disrupt family activities.
- Family members and other caregivers are important for child learning.
- Emphasis is on supporting caregivers and their abilities in everyday activities, rather than teaching new skills outside of the real life contexts.
- Focus is on functional participation of the child while promoting caregiver competence and confidence to support child learning.



Focus of Early Intervention #2

Use of coaching as a model for families, medical homes, and EI programs that provide services to infants.



Key Elements

- "Increasingly, a best practice method, endorsed across diverse disciplines, provides coaching strategies to families for use in the child's natural learning environments. This method has been shown to build the capacity of a parent or other caretaker as new skills (both in the family member and the child) are acquired." (p. e1077)