



Coaching Modeling

Coaching is an interaction style early intervention practitioners use to build the capacity of caregivers to support child learning as part of their typical daily activities. Modeling is a technique used by a coach to demonstrate for a caregiver how to use a specific responsive strategy within the context of a family or classroom activity while the caregiver observes.

When to Model

- Caregiver asks you to show how to use a specific strategy.
- Caregiver is a visual learner and could benefit from seeing the coach demonstrate the strategy.
- Caregiver is becoming frustrated and the caregiver and/or child could disengage.
- Child is becoming frustrated to the point of losing the learning opportunities.

Modeling Guidelines

- Ask permission before you show. Some caregivers may be offended if you appear to take over the activity. Ask, “Could I try something?”
- Use intentional modeling to ensure the caregiver knows specifically what you are doing and why.
- Model only for short periods of time, so the caregiver stays engaged.
- Ensure what you model can be done by the caregiver when you are not there.
- Consider how your success with the child could negatively impact the caregiver’s confidence.

Seven Steps for Intentional Modeling

1. Explain what will be modeled and why.

2. Give the caregiver something specific to observe.
3. Demonstrate the strategy in the activity with the child.
4. Prompt the caregiver to reflect on what you demonstrated.
5. Invite the caregiver to try the strategy in the activity with the child.
6. Prompt the caregiver to reflect on their practice opportunity.
7. Help the caregiver plan when/how to use the strategy when you are not present.