



Effective Early Intervention

Educators Partner With Families

Educators serve a valuable role on the early intervention team. When educators partner with families using a capacity-building coaching interaction style, caregivers are engaged in the early intervention process, and support more closely reflect family priorities.

A capacity-building approach to caregiver coaching includes:

Joint Planning

Each visit begins by revisiting the previous between-visit plan to determine what worked and what the caregiver might need or want to change. Each visit ends with a jointly developed plan for how the caregiver will support the child's learning through participation in a family routine between visits and a plan for what routine the caregiver and coach will use as the context for the next visit.

Observation

The educator observes the caregiver and child while engaged in a family routine the caregiver wants the child to participate in successfully. The educator uses the observation to recognize the caregiver's strengths and determine how to help the caregivers further build their competence and confidence.

Action/Practice

The caregiver practices new ideas for promoting the child's participation and learning during the real-life activities occurring during the visit. When the educator and caregiver make a concrete plan at the end of the visit, the caregiver continues to practice ideas between visits.

Reflection

The educator prompts the caregiver to reflect by asking what the caregiver knows and has tried.

The educator prompts the caregiver to analyze what works or not and identify new strategies.

Reflection helps the caregiver practice using a systematic decision-making process with scaffolding from the educator.

Feedback

The educator shares new information or ideas, when needed, based on their observation of the caregiver and the caregiver's reflections. Feedback occurs after the caregiver has the opportunity to reflect.