



Natural Learning Environment Practices in Childcare

Enhancing Child Participation in Classroom with Early Intervention Strategies

How can classroom professionals use natural environment learning practices during EI visits?

Using natural learning environment practices in a childcare or classroom setting supports child participation in everyday activities and helps build the capacity of early care providers.

Routines and Activity Settings:

- Be open to the EI provider helping you figure out ways to promote the child's participation in activities and routines.
- Consider all routines (handwashing, meals, cleanup) and activities (playground, centers) to promote participation.
- Focus on supporting the child in those routines using child interests and responsive strategies, while the EI provider supports you.

Child Interests:

- Think about the child's interests and how they can be used to engage the child.
- Observe and consider the unique interests of the child, including classroom toys and materials, to engage and motivate the child's participation.
- Consider ways to expand opportunities for the child to pursue their interests in both current and new activities and routines in the classroom.

Caregiver Responsiveness:

- Share what you already know about how to support the child's participation.
- Be open to learning and trying new specialized strategies for helping the child participate.
- It's important to communicate openly with your EI provider to fine-tune strategies that suit you and your classroom.

Tip: Talk with your EI provider in advance and outside of visits to share your expectations, feedback, and how they can best support you.