



## GETTING STARTED: EARLY INTERVENTION SUPPORT IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS

### HOW CAN EI PROVIDERS PREPARE AND PLAN FOR SUPPORTING A CHILD IN A CHILD CARE SETTING?

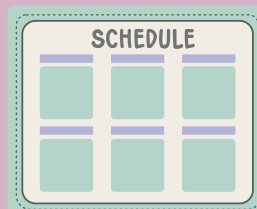
Children learn best through participation in everyday activities and routines with the important caregivers in their lives.

Early Intervention providers use natural learning environment practices to promote caregiver responsiveness, use child interests, and support children's participation in routines and activities.



### FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE SETTING:

- ✓ Find out the philosophy of the child care provider/program.
- ✓ Discover the expectations that the child care provider has for EI services.
- ✓ Communicate your expectations for working with the child care provider (coaching, practicing strategies during real-life routines),



### LEARN ABOUT THE EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES AND ROUTINES IN THE CLASSROOM:

- ✓ Learn what the schedule of the child care classroom is.
- ✓ Find out what centers, routines, and other activities happen in the classroom.
- ✓ Identify a plan for if the child care provider is absent or a new one starts.



### INDIVIDUALIZE YOUR SUPPORTS FOR THE CHILD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CLASSROOM:

- ✓ Identify the child's interests within the classroom.
- ✓ Ask what the child care provider's priorities for the child are within daily activities and routines.
- ✓ Use classroom observations to inform IFSP development.



### TIP:

Approach the partnership with curiosity and an open mind and reassure child care providers that you are there for support, not judgment.







# SUPPORTING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS DURING EI VISITS

Early Intervention providers using natural learning environment practices in the child care setting support child participation in everyday activities to help build the capacity of the child care providers.

HOW CAN EI PROVIDERS SUPPORT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS IN USING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT LEARNING PRACTICES DURING EI VISITS?

## ROUTINES AND ACTIVITY SETTINGS:



- ✓ Assist the child care provider in figuring out ways to promote child participation within classroom activities and routines.
- ✓ Consider all routines (handwashing, meals, cleanup) and activities (playground, centers) to promote participation.
- ✓ Focus on supporting the child care provider in those routines, rather than working directly with the child.

## CHILD INTERESTS



- ✓ Support the child care provider in identifying and using the child's interests to help engage the child.
- ✓ Use the toys and materials in the classroom for modeling and brainstorming new ideas with the provider.
- ✓ Support the child care provider with expanding opportunities to promote the child's interest within current and across new classroom activities and routines.

## CAREGIVER RESPONSIVENESS:



- ✓ Use evidence-based coaching to build upon the childcare provider's existing knowledge and skills.
- ✓ Have the child care provider reflect and share their knowledge or ideas before you share or model.
- ✓ Support the child care provider's use of responsive strategies.

### TIP:

Child care visits may be shorter, more targeted visits or they may take a little longer due to classroom activity. Discuss the provider's expectations ahead of time and watch their cues during the visit.







# JOINT PLANNING WITH CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

## HOW CAN EI PROVIDERS USE JOINT PLANNING TO SET THE STAGE FOR EFFECTIVE NATURAL LEARNING PRACTICES IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS?

When providing early intervention services in child care settings, joint planning is critical to ensure the early interventionist arrives when expected and needed, the focus of the visit is a naturally occurring interest-based routine or activity, and the caregivers are prepared to learn and practice strategies in the moment.

### ROUTINES AND ACTIVITY SETTINGS:

- ✓ Help the provider make a plan to use strategies that are easily incorporated into existing routines and interactions.
- ✓ Develop a joint plan for the focus of the next visit and schedule to go when that activity typically happens.
- ✓ Plan visits that vary in time and day so you can support the child care provider across different routines and activities.

### CHILD INTERESTS:

- ✓ Remember to incorporate child interests into between-visit plans.
- ✓ Discuss the benefits of using child interests in developing between-visit plans.
- ✓ Consider how to use child interests to nurture social interactions.



### CAREGIVER RESPONSIVENESS:

- ✓ Develop a between-visit plan focused on the child care provider's priorities and responsive strategies.
- ✓ Follow-up during each visit to learn which strategies the child care provider is using and finds effective.
- ✓ Develop a system for communication with the family about what occurs at child care visits.

#### TIP:

Consider alternative ways to joint plan with the child care provider (phone call during nap time, email) to follow-up if needed.

