



How Do You Know You Are Coaching?

Recommended practice in early intervention includes coaching caregivers to build their capacity to promote child participation and learning during typical family routines and community activities. How do you know if your interactions with caregivers align with research-based coaching?

- Start every visit by reviewing the activity settings and responsive strategies the caregiver planned to focus on between visits. Use open-ended questions to help the caregiver analyze what worked, what didn't work, and why.
- Make sure the focus of each visit is a pre-planned activity or routine the family typically does.
- Help the caregiver think about what they want the child's participation in the activity to be.
- Have the caregiver analyze how the child's interests provide a reason for the child to participate in the activity.
- Prompt the caregiver to identify responsive strategies that might successfully invite, engage, and teach the child during the activity.
- Observe the caregiver using the responsive strategies with the child during the activity.
- Help the caregiver analyze their use of the strategies and the impact on the child's desired participation in the activity.
- Provide information and modeling if/when needed to help the caregiver refine their use of effective responsive strategies.
- Ask the caregiver to identify other routines and activities where the responsive strategies they are practicing can be used to help the child participate successfully.

- Prompt the caregiver to identify their role in promoting their child's learning.
- Ask the caregiver how the visit was helpful to the child and family.
- Have the caregiver create a plan for the continued use of effective strategies during typical activities between visits.
- End each visit with a plan for what will be the focus activity or routine at the next visit and what the caregiver wants the child to learn in that activity.
- Schedule the next visit at the time the planned activity actually occurs.