

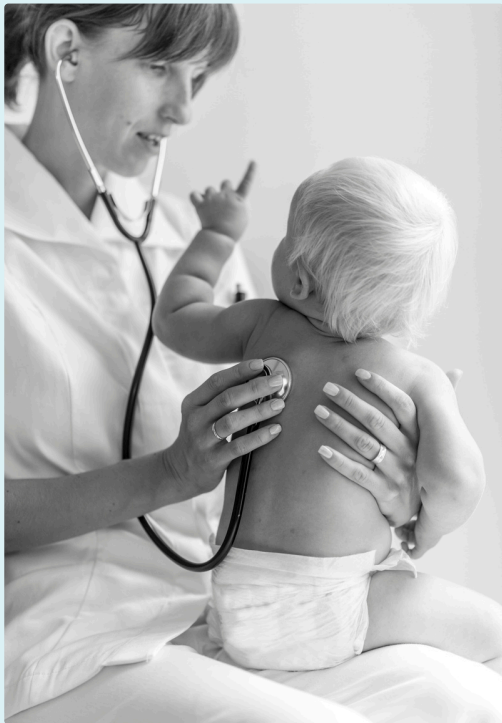


HOW DOES THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS *Define*

Best Practice in Early Intervention

Reissued Report

In 2024, the AAP reissued their report on Early Intervention, IDEA Part C Services, and the Medical Home: Collaboration for Best Practice and Best Outcomes. The report reaffirms:



Early Intervention Should Focus on the Child's Natural Routines

- The AAP emphasizes that early intervention is most effective when it occurs within the child's everyday activities, not in isolated, clinic-style sessions.
- Pediatricians are encouraged to refer families to EI services that support learning in "natural environments where children live, learn, and play."
- Natural routines (mealtime, play, dressing, transitions) provide frequent, meaningful opportunities for developmental practice.



Caregivers Are the Primary Change Agents

- The AAP highlights that caregivers—not providers—are the people who spend the most time with the child and therefore have the greatest impact on developmental progress.
- EI should strengthen the caregiver's ability to support development throughout the day, rather than relying on provider-directed sessions.



Coaching Is the Recommended Approach to Build Caregiver Capacity

- The AAP encourages EI providers to use collaborative, capacity-building strategies that help caregivers learn, practice, and refine new skills.
- The AAP positions natural routines and caregiver coaching as essential to high-quality early intervention, ensuring that developmental support is woven into the moments where children learn best.

