



An Early Intervention Guide To Tele-Intervention

Natural Learning Environment Practices

Activity Settings

- Always have a real-life activity setting planned with families. Activity settings are daily routines (meals, dressing, chores) where children can use and practice what they need to learn. Nailing this down will ensure that visits are productive and do not turn into just conversations or chats with a caregiver.
- During the visit, make a point to spend time watching the activity happen before offering suggestions. Have the caregiver position the phone, tablet, or computer so you can hear one another and see as much of the activity as possible. Use other family members as “videographers” if available.
- When making the Next Visit Plan at the end of each visit, spend some extra time brainstorming activities to determine when and how you can be most helpful. Plan how you will be able to see the caregiver and child in the activity using his/her device.

Child Interests

- Child interests are essential to learning. Help caregivers learn to recognize the child's cues that he is interested in something and use televisits as a chance to support the caregiver in describing what she sees and thinks about what those cues mean.
- Virtual visits may allow practitioners to be part of a wider variety of activities that they do not normally see. Use this as an opportunity to support caregivers in seeing and using the child's current interests and recognizing new ones in these activities.

- Support caregivers in digging deeper into the child's interests by asking questions like "What do you think she likes about this?" "Why do you think she likes it?" "What else would she like to do in this activity?"

Caregiver Responsiveness

- The ways caregivers interact with and respond to children can have a powerful effect on their learning. During televisits, you will need to be able to clearly explain how the caregiver can respond to the child even more than you might during a face-to-face visit. We suggest using invite, engage, and teach.
- Caregivers can use Invite strategies to get a child's attention and create a setting in which the child wants to participate.
- Caregivers Engage a child by joining in an activity and using strategies to let him know the caregiver hears and understands what that he wants and sees his interests in the same way.
- Caregivers use Teach strategies to support current skills or help a child learn and use new skills.