



# Natural Learning Environment Practices in Childcare

## Getting Started: Preparing for an Early Intervention (EI) Visit

How can CLASSROOM professionals prepare for an EI Visit?

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 the EI provider with the classroom setting:

- Share the philosophy of your childcare program.
- Share your expectations for EI services.
- Ask the EI provider about how they deliver services in classrooms and what they expect from you.

Share Information about the everyday activities and routines in the classroom:

- Share the class schedule with the EI provider.
- Give the EI provider information about the centers, routines, and other activities that happen in the classroom.
- Talk with the EI provider ahead of time about the plan for when you are absent.

Individualize your supports for the child:

- Identify the child's interests within typical classroom activities.

- Share your priorities and goals for the child within the classroom's daily activities and routines.
- Speak up about what you notice works and doesn't work to support the child's participation in the classroom.

Tip: Approach the partnership with curiosity and be open to new ways to support the child's interest-based learning.