



Natural Learning Environment

Practices In Child Care

Joint Planning With Child Care Providers

How can EI providers use joint planning to set the stage for effective natural environment 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.