



Natural Learning Environment Practices In Child Care

Supporting Child Care Providers During EI Visits

How can EI providers support child care providers in using natural environment learning practices during EI visits?

Early Intervention providers using natural learning environment practices in the child care setting support child participation in everyday activities to help build the capacity of the child care providers.

Routines and Activity Settings:

- Assist the child care provider in figuring out ways to promote child participation within classroom activities and routines.
- Consider all routines (handwashing, meals, cleanup) and activities (playground, centers) to promote participation.
- Focus on supporting the child care provider in those routines, rather than working directly with the child.

Child Interests:

- Support the child care provider in identifying and using the child's interests to help engage the child.
- Use the toys and materials in the classroom for modeling and brainstorming new ideas with the provider.
- Support the child care provider with expanding opportunities to promote the child's interest within current and across new classroom activities and routines.

Caregiver Responsiveness:

- Use evidence-based coaching to build upon the childcare provider's existing knowledge and skills.
- Have the child care provider reflect and share their knowledge or ideas before you share or model.
- Support the child care provider's use of responsive strategies.

TIP: Child care visits may be shorter, more targeted visits or they may take a little longer due to classroom activity. Discuss the provider's expectations ahead of time and watch their cues during the visit.