

Tele-Teach

Teaching isn't just for teachers anymore.

How do early childhood educators promote learning during a televisit? The shift to teleteaching is the perfect opportunity to support a new learner: the child's caregiver. Whether you are a teacher who typically serves in a classroom and/or a home-visiting role, teleintervention provides new challenges, and more importantly, new opportunities.

Materials

Replicating a classroom in a family's home is not possible or necessary. With your help, caregivers can use everyday activities and routines as the context for learning. This can be anything that occurs within a family's day such as mealtime, bath time, getting dressed, or teeth brushing. As an educator, you are always thinking of ways to support development, and this is your time to help caregivers to do the same.

Method

Use a coaching interaction style as your method for building the capacity of the caregivers to know how to promote child learning. While you have a wealth of knowledge on child development, families are the experts on their children. Pick a daily routine with the caregiver as the context for your televisit. Brainstorm ideas that the caregiver can use to support the child's learning within a given routine. Find out: What works well? What doesn't? What could the child be learning? What is the child most interested in?

Meaningful Response

As an early childhood educator, you use responsive strategies without even realizing, to invite, engage, and teach children. The focus of your teleintervention is to support the caregiver in knowing how to respond to the child during daily activities in ways that promote learning, such as following the child's lead, modeling words, providing just enough support for the child to be successful, and letting the child know you understand him.