



Back to the Field

Scheduling

As early intervention (EI) practitioners transition back into the field, many have found scheduling, especially for hybrid models, more difficult to do using the blocked approach that once dominated the EI landscape. FAB scheduling, which many found themselves using during tele-intervention, provides an alternative uniquely suited to EI. FAB scheduling stands for flexible, activity-based, and bursts of support.



The shift to *flexible* scheduling means supporting families on days and times that vary week to week and consider the fact that families' schedules change quickly and often.



During tele-intervention, providers reconsidered how they could arrange visits to allow families to build a schedule that worked for them, rather than scheduling around their provider.



Flexible scheduling with drive time can feel daunting, so providers can consider how they can stack visits geographically and keep all families flexible to tailor each week to the specific needs of both the provider's and families' schedules.



Flexible scheduling involves providing supports to caregivers during the everyday *activities* that provide opportunities for child learning and are meaningful to the child and caregivers.t.



During tele-intervention, many providers discovered new family routines that were excellent learning opportunities. Instead of creating an activity, go when the child and caregiver are engaged in meaningful real-life activities such as tooth-brushing, dressing, mealtime, or playing at the park.



Many every day routines happen multiple times a day (i.e., mealtimes, diaper changes, toileting), thus providing many options in any given day to see a child.



Bursts of support allow for visits to occur at a frequency that matches the caregivers' pace of learning and ensures families receive the support they need at the actual time they need it.



Many practitioners found through tele-intervention that shorter, more frequent visits worked best for children and families.



As families transition to a new normal, everyday activities may change, so a burst may be needed to support families with their priorities for their child.

Transitioning back into the field can provide a fresh start and an opportunity to tackle this approach. Consider each element of FAB scheduling and how it can look as you transition back to the field.

