



EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES IN CHILDCARE SETTINGS: ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Guiding Principles for EI Providers:

- Respect and value childcare providers as team members and the authority in the classroom
- Recognize the vast responsibilities childcare providers have in the classroom, the limited amount of time they have to engage with EI providers, and the need to be flexible
- Collaborate with and coach childcare providers to ensure they are supported and successful

Preparing for visits in childcare settings

- With caregiver permission, invite childcare providers to participate in the RBI and IFSP meetings, and discuss coaching in EI
- Contact center director to discuss their program's visitor policies and availability for first visit
- Invite caregiver to EI visits at childcare center and confirm initial visit
- Establish communication system with caregiver for visits at childcare center

Initial conversations with childcare staff

- Establish relationships, discuss roles, and develop an ongoing communication system during first visit to the center
- Highlight that EI visits occur within the classroom's typical routines
- Clarify that EI providers support childcare providers to problem-solve and help the child's participation, development and learning
- Explore the child's strengths, as well as the easiest and most difficult routines

Early intervention visits in childcare settings

- Develop the joint plan for the visit
- Implement the joint plan by observing and practicing, engaging the caregiver to reflect, and offering feedback
- At the end of the visit, develop a detailed joint plan with the childcare provider for between visits and for the next visit at the program, scheduling around the prioritized routine
- Establish preferred method to confirm next visit with childcare provider
- Communicate with caregiver if they did not attend