

Working in Child Care as an EI Provider

Child care settings are ideal for early intervention services. They have regular routines, play-based and child-centered activities, and opportunities for peer interaction. Additionally, many programs run all day and year-round providing continuity of care. Providing quality, coordinated care between child care and early intervention (EI) can improve child and family outcomes.

If the family requests services in the childcare setting, it is important to establish a respectful, collaborative relationship with the child care provider (CCP). To be effective and respectful,

you should take time to learn about the child care program including their program philosophy, schedule, routines, as well as staff roles and responsibilities. In turn, you can share information about the EI process, your role, what to expect during an EI visit, and their role in EI. With the family's permission, share and discuss the IFSP with child care providers.



Discuss with family members how they would like to involve their child care provider in early intervention.

Ways to Involve Child Care Providers

During evaluation & assessment

CCPs can provide valuable information about the child's skills and behavior during their care.

During plan development

CCPs can provide information about daily routines, child preferences, and challenges experienced in the childcare setting.

Throughout intervention

CCPs can utilize and help to modify recommended strategies to support a child's development during childcare routines and activities.

During visits

- Follow the visitor policies of the program.
- Take time to work with the administrator.
- Greet child care providers and children.
- Share any plans for your visit.
- Embed intervention within program materials, daily routines, and peer interactions.
- Ask the childcare provider about the success of suggested strategies.
- Model intervention techniques and discuss how these techniques support the child's functional outcomes.
- Allow time for questions from the child care provider.
- Focus on supporting the child care provider through *triadic coaching strategies*.

Learn more about triadic coaching strategies

http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/training_piwi.html

Other Considerations

- Value child care providers as important members of the team.
- Respect their authority in their programs and classrooms.
- Recognize the multiple responsibilities of child care providers and be flexible in your teaming.
- Take time to observe the program in order to make relevant, meaningful, and functional suggestions for strategies.
- Establish time for joint planning for visits.
- Establish a communication system (e.g., phone, text, email).
- Schedule visits when family members can be present or discuss how information will be shared with the family.
- Provide resources for child care providers on relevant topics.

“It’s a collaborative, team effort. We are all there for the best interest of the child and all want to see the child succeed, so the more we stay on the same page, the better the outcomes for the child will be.”—Adrienne, early intervention provider

Resources

Early Intervention & Child Care: Natural Partners in Natural Environments

- <http://go.illinois.edu/ElandChildCare>

This video is a great resource to share with child care providers to introduce Early Intervention.

CARA’s Kits

- **Milbourne, S. A. & Campbell, P. H. (2012). *Cara’s kit for toddlers: Creating adaptations for routines and activities*. Philadelphia, PA: Child and Family Studies Research Programs, Thomas Jefferson University.**

These kits provide strategies to embed strategies into daily routines at home and in community programs. They are available through the free lending library at the Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse. For more information, please visit www.eiclearinghouse.org.

Checklists for Providing/Receiving EI Supports in Child Care Settings

- <http://www.sunnydays.com/pdf/FamilyResources/Checklists-for-Providing-and-Receiving-EIServices-in-Childcare-Settings.pdf>

These checklists are based on current evidence supporting the use of natural learning environment practices and coaching as an interaction style for building the capacity of the child care provider to promote child learning and development.

Center for Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning

- <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/>

This center provides resources for triadic coaching strategies and strategies for classroom settings.

Technical Assistance Center on Social Emotional Intervention (TACSEI)

- <http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/index.htm>

This center has a variety of family and practitioner friendly resources on development.