

Early Intervention Questions and Answers October 2010

Dear Providers, I just wanted to thank all of you who have been asking questions this month. Our QA visits to the home are well underway and I have been getting questions from many providers who are very enthusiastic about finding resources they need to help them provide the best early intervention they can. In addition to responding to each person I am sharing some of the questions and answers here as a resource for the rest of you. If you have more helpful information please let me know.

1. I still have a bad habit of bringing my toy bag to visits, I want to stop but I am not sure how, do you have any resources to help me?

What a great question and we have many resources that can help you.

- a. For information please go to the following websites
 - a. <http://tactics.fsu.edu/modules/modThree.html>
 - b. <http://facets.lsi.ku.edu/index.shtml>
- b. I am attaching "10 tips" for releasing your toy bag
- c. Watch the video on early intervention created by Connecticut's birth to three program. A wonderful resource about what should be happening during early intervention home visits.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fOJGmldj0c>

2. I remember a tool we used a while ago, something about an outcome and routine matrix where we can help parents find opportunities to practice skills for their outcomes during everyday routines do you have this?

- a. Yes, I am attaching a matrix and instructions for creating it. We know that children learn from repetition in the context of the activity where they use the skill. Children do not learn well from massed trials (different from adults), they need to practice variations of the activity frequently throughout the day. This matrix helps EI providers plan with families when and where to practice the skills.

3. I think I am using coaching with the parents I work with but I would really like to observe a few sessions with other EI providers who are confident on coaching parents. I feel like I am spending too much time trying to hold the child and not enough time teaching the parent!

- a. Please contact Trina or Katie and we can set up some observations of other EI providers who will be happy to have you come and observe the coaching model in practice.

4. I was reading about natural environments and I did not realize that providing services in the natural environment, under part C in our program was a federal law! When should we send a child to the clinic for therapy?

- a. You are correct, providing services in the natural environment is part of the federal law IDEA, that governs our program. The Early Steps policies handbook and operations guide http://www.cms-kids.com/home/resources/es_policy_0710/es_policy.html does provide policies to guide teams about when a service may be required outside the natural environment (clinic). If services have been tried in the natural environment and have not been successful and if the team has a child based justification for services outside the natural environment based on the best available research, then a team can decide to recommend services outside of the natural environment.

If you have more questions about providing early intervention services under IDEA please let me know.

Trina