Coaching Conversations in Early Childhood

Best practice in early intervention calls for EI providers to engage in a collaborative relationship with the caregivers of children receiving EI services. Many times this means an EI provider must take on the role of a coach and the caregiver the role of a coachee. Coaching is defined as, “voluntary, nonjudgmental, and collaborative partnership that occurs between the EI provider and the caregiver when one desires to learn new knowledge and skills from the other.” Jayaraman, Marvin, Knoche, and Bainter (2015) examined the content of conversations between early childhood coaches, who attended a 3-day training on the principles of successful coaching, and coachees using videotapes and a coding system. They found there are key characteristics evident in productive coaching interactions. Both the coaches and the coachees frequently used verbal acknowledgement and non-verbal acknowledgment. Verbal acknowledgement is when a coach comments on, affirms, and/or acknowledges the caregivers’ observations, behaviors, ideas within the established topic. For example the coach may restate or rephrase something the caregiver had said. Non-verbal acknowledgement is when the coach demonstrates active listening behavior such as nodding, leaning in, and eye raises. Frequent engagement in these behaviors suggests the relationship to be two-way and includes listening as well as speaking for both parties. Other behaviors observed in productive coaching relationships were sharing specific observations, and feedback. Taking a moment to reflect on the conversations EI providers are having with caregivers may provide some insight into the effectiveness of the EI provider—caregiver relationship.


How will EI providers demonstrate they are implementing the PA Early Learning Standards?

The PA Early Learning Standards are available on the [PA Keys website](http://www.pakeys.org). Currently, Southeastern regional directors with EITA assistance have come together to develop a specific action plan for how EI providers will implement the PA Early Learning Standards. Once an action plan is developed, EI providers will be expected to implement the PA Early Learning Standards within their practice. It is recommended your agency should familiarize your staff with the PA Early Learning Standards in preparation for the new regulations.

Philadelphia Autism Network 2015-2016 Trainings

Supportive workshops for ALL families and professionals helping children with Autism. Childcare is available for ALL trainings! Register for childcare by calling 215-460-7725. Trainings are held 6-8 PM at Elwyn Seedlings, 3300 Henry Ave., Philadelphia! ACT 48 Credits available! Contact Karen Krivit for any question at kkrivit@elwyn.org or 215-460-7725!

Therapists as Collaborative Team members for Infant/Toddler Community Services (TaTICS)

TaTICS is an outreach training project funded by a U.S. Department of Education Grant. This web site is being maintained to share tools useful in skillfully navigating the path toward provision of Part C Services using the child/family’s daily routines, activities, and events as a context for assessment and intervention.