

Practical Intentions or Intentional Practices:

Using a Routines Based Approach as Effective Support
for Young Children with Blindness and Visual
Impairments

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Mission of Early Intervention Services



Part C of IDEA (early intervention) builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through **everyday learning opportunities.**

Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments, OSEP TA Community of Practice: Part C Settings. (2008). *Agreed upon mission and key principles for providing early intervention services in natural environments.* Retrieved from http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/families/Finalmissionandprinciples3_11_08.pdf

What is Routines Based Intervention?

- ✦ Naturally occurring activities- *It's practical!*
- ✦ Meaningful and repeated experiences- *It's intentional!*
- ✦ Focus of intervention is support to those who interact with child on regular basis...the parents or caregiver.

Participation is engagement. Engagement is learning.

Practical intentions AND Intentional Practices

Everything we do should be practical AND intentional!

Paradigm Shift for TSVIs



- ✦ Parent priority and concerns/family strengths **not** child deficit
- ✦ Activity based **not** skill based
- ✦ Coaching for parents **not** direct instruction to child
- ✦ Most learning occurs in between the specialist's visits **not** during the intervention session
- ✦ Parents and caregivers “own” the plan/outcome/goal **not** the professional

4 Principles of RBI in Birth to 3



1. Family Centered Practice
2. Family Systems and Ecology Theories
3. Trans-disciplinary Service Delivery
4. Complexity of Home Visits and Families

Family Centered Practices

Early Intervention is not meant to happen “to” a family, but “with” a family.

- ✦ **Collaborative:** Professional is partner with family and believes family is capable of making informed choices/decisions
- ✦ **Strength based:** Focus of intervention is to strengthen family capacity to improve functioning through help giving and empowerment building practices (RBEI)
- ✦ **Family Control:** Promotes family’s choice and control over resources rather than “what’s available”.

Role of the TSVI in EI



We are a LIASION!

- ✦ Visual and medical interpretation
- ✦ Advocacy within the EI system (Part C of IDEA)
- ✦ Connection to Parent to Parent supports

We are a HELPGIVER!

- ✦ Both relational and participatory
- ✦ Through an understanding of child development
 - ✦ Vision related issues/context
 - ✦ Early childhood education issues/context

We are a COACH!...

The TSVI as a Coach



Joint Planning at the IFSP and visits; a discussion of who will do what, by when, and what roles each will assume (the transdisciplinary model of teaming)

Observation of children during routine activities and occurrences

Modeling and direct teaching to parent/caregiver during opportunities to practice

Reflection and problem solving discussion about what is working and what is not

Feedback loop to build a deeper understanding of what is happening and recommendations to move further

Coaching Conversations



Quality coaching should include a series of **2-way conversations** between parent/caregiver and TSVI, both verbal and non-verbal.

- ✦ Build confidence and competence
- ✦ Be voluntary, non-judgmental, culturally appropriate, and collaborative
- ✦ Reflect adult learning strategies
- ✦ Shared ownership

Why use RBI?



Parents and caregivers are also learners who need the following to be successful:

- ✦ To be active learners in the process of their child's learning
- ✦ To have immediate context where learning can be applied
- ✦ To have multiple opportunities to practice
- ✦ To be able to reflect and assess what is occurring

What is a “routine”?



- ✦ Beginning and ending
- ✦ Outcome oriented
- ✦ Meaningful
- ✦ Sequential or systematic
- ✦ Predictable
- ✦ Repetitious

Is it a routine?



Bath time

Yes!

Trip to zoo

No

Breakfast

Yes!

A visit from Grandma who lives out of state

No

Trip to grocery store

Maybe

Weekly visit from EI service provider

No, but how can it be make a routine?

ECC During Bath Time



Compensatory

Orientation and Mobility

Social Interaction

Independent Living

Recreation and Leisure

Technology

Career Education

Self Determination

Sensory efficiency

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