

Ditch the Toy Bag
& Get Off the
Floor!



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What role do
you play in
early
intervention?

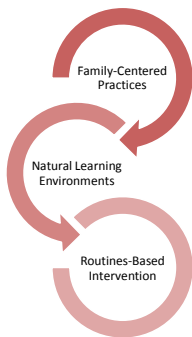




Mission of Early Intervention

Part C 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, March). 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 Do We Know?



What do YOU think?

Most early intervention visits occur “on the floor” with the child engaging in toy play.



What do YOU think?

Most early intervention visits occur “on the floor” with the child engaging in toy play.

TRUE



Continuum of Early Intervention Practices



TRADITIONAL



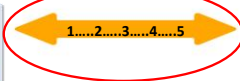
COLLABORATIVE



Where are your practices on the continuum??



TRADITIONAL



COLLABORATIVE



How Do I Become Truly Collaborative?



- Adopt family-centered practices
- Individualize intervention to specific child & family interests, priorities, & activities
- Focus on parent-child interaction & engagement



How Do I Become Truly Collaborative?



- Embrace a broad concept of "natural environments"
- Engage the parent as the "agent of change"
- Remember that most learning occurs between visits



What do YOU think?

Parents spend a lot of time playing with their children on the floor.



What do YOU think?

Parents spend a lot of time playing with their children on the floor.

FALSE



Play Contexts in the Real World





Toy Play is still important...it's just not the ONLY routine we should be using for intervention!

What Natural Learning Opportunities Do You See?





TRADITIONAL



Where's the Toy Bag??



COLLABORATIVE



Why Do We Still Bring It?



I'm in control...

My toys work!

The kids like the toys!

The family doesn't have toys...



That's how I've always done it...

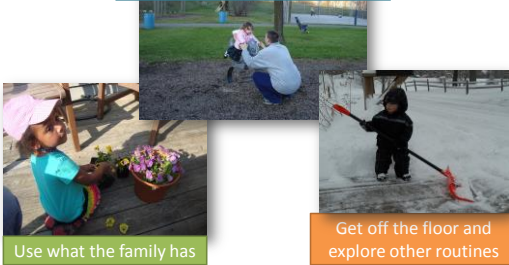


What Does the Toy Bag Communicate?



No Toy Bag? What Are Your Options?

Focus on playful interactions rather than toys



Use what the family has

Get off the floor and explore other routines



No More
Back Pain

Hello! I have a
trunk in my car!

No more toys to
clean! Yippee!

Tips for Ditching the Toy Bag

- Step back and observe
- Ask the family about routines that go well & those that are challenging – then plan join them!



Tips for Ditching the Toy Bag

- Wean yourself (and the child) by taking fewer toys each visit
- Leave the toy bag in the car
- Meet at a new location



When toy play is just one of many routines, you can more easily get off the living room floor!

Your intervention world (and the family's) just got a lot bigger!



Top 3 Tips for Getting Off the Floor

- Go where they go, do what they do, seek out learning opportunities in the child's and family's everyday activities!
- ASK: What would you be doing if I wasn't here right now? ...then do that!
- Target a specific routine on the next visit



YOU CAN DO IT

- Ease yourself into a new practice
- Start fresh with new families
- Partner with a colleague
- Do something different at each visit



Let It Go!



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Find out more at:
www.veipd.org/main/
www.veipd.org/earlyintervention
