



## Making the Most of Your Visit

**Early Interventionists:** You have expertise in typical and atypical development. Your information is valuable to parents and caregivers. Families learn best when the information provided is relevant to their personal concerns. Through your coaching and guidance, support the family in their effective parenting of the child. Remember, you will only be a part of this child's life for a short period of time.

### Before the Visit

- **Be familiar with the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).**
- **Review notes from previous visits.**
- **Gather information to answer questions posed by the family.**

### During the Visit

- **Ask about the time since the last visit.** How has it been going? What suggestions or strategies worked or did not work and why?
- **Discuss the family's current and upcoming activities.** Suggest strategies that can be incorporated into ongoing or planned learning opportunities. These strategies should directly address the IFSP outcomes, family's concerns and/or priorities.
- **Provide training.** Following the child and family's interests, provide coaching in strategies to "make the most" of daily activities. Encourage the family to ask questions and practice with you.
- **Discuss ideas and activities for carry-over between visits when most of the child's learning will take place.** Emphasize the importance of everyday practice in the family's activities. Provide materials, information, and emotional support to facilitate success for the child and family in everyday experiences.
- **Incorporate other family members.** Remember that if the child has siblings who like to get involved in your session that those siblings are also there during the in-between therapy times. Model how to incorporate them.

### After your visit

- **Share important information with other team members.** If more than one team member sees the child, share activities and strategies that you found successful. Consult with other team members for additional intervention strategies.

### Periodically

- **Check with the family regarding current insurance policy information.**
- **Review cancellation and illness policies.**
- **Update the service coordinator about successes and challenges.**