



Beyond Bubbles and Blocks:

Tips for MA EI Home Visitors



Did you know?

The Massachusetts Early Intervention mission and key principles were developed using the national Early Intervention key principles and mission statement. Some allied health providers may be wondering if their licensing boards truly endorse the mission and key principles of early intervention. Sometimes there is a disconnect between what we learn in school and how early childhood research says we should be practicing. The ECTA center has this wonderful crosswalk between the EI mission and key principles and the different licensing boards to show how each of the licensing boards align and support the national Early Intervention key principles and mission statement. You can find the cross walk here:

http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/eiservices/keyprinciplesmatrix_01_30_15.pdf

"Our responsibility is to meet families where they are, learn more about their child and family, and share what we know about how early intervention works."

- Datham Rush

Tips and Techniques...

Are you struggling to get families to engage with you or your services on home visits? Are you trying to implement triadic strategies but feeling a little bit frustrated or lost on how to get the engagement you are looking for? This article posed in the October 2018 AHSA Leader might give you some concrete strategies to try. The author Datham Rush talks about such topics as...

- Knowing the parents interest and priorities.
- Moveing beyond play and focus on activities that require family involvement.

- Schedule visits during real life activities.
- Promote confidence, competence, and mutual enjoyment.
- Acknowledge that EI services are voluntary.

Here in Mass EI we are very passionate about helping infants and toddlers, but as Rush states: "Passion and practices without family partnership do not result in enough practice for children to reach their potential."

Check out the article here: <https://leader.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2705736>

Evaluation/ Assessment tip



We are doing the BDI-2 in the home so it can't be standardized.

Many Mass. EI BDI-2 users think that the BDI-2 was standardized in a clinical setting. The Examiner's Manual tells us that the test was standardized in "schools, agencies, and daycare centers." (Pg. 99) The concern around standardization setting has people wondering if the BDI-2 can be done in a standardized way in the families' home. The Examiner's Manual tells us on page 22 that the BDI-2 can in fact be used in a home. The manual encourages users to choose an area that is quiet and free from distractions. It is important that programs are informing parents about the BDI-2 and letting them know what type of environment is ideal early on in the referral process. Examiners should work with families to set up the testing environment striving for a quiet distraction free space. Some of the best evaluations happen on the kitchen floor!

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