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**Beyond Bubbles and Blocks**

Information for EI Home Visitors

**Do you know about joint planning?**

A person holding a baby

Description automatically generated with low confidenceJoint planning involves the EI Specialist and caregivers working together. The EI Specialist helps guide the caregivers to identify skills they want to learn and develop a plan for action/practice during and beyond the early intervention visit to achieve the targeted skill(s). Joint planning is essential at the end of each visit to determine:

* How the caregivers can incorporate strategies learned and practiced during the visit during their time between visits,
* What the EI Specialist and caregivers will do at the next visit, and
* When the next visit will occur.

Joint planning is a component of coaching that is also recommended at the beginning of each visit to make sure the plan developed from the previous visit is still the caregivers’ priority. If not, joint planning at the beginning of the visit is used to create a new plan for the current visit.

**How is joint planning related to the MA EI Key Principles and Core Values?**

Joint planning is aligned with all seven of the MA EI principles by ensuring that caregivers play a vital role in the decision-making process and the entire Individualized Family Service Plan. It promotes a partnership between the EI Specialist and caregivers that is collaborative, strengths-based, individualized, family-centered, and based on respect. Joint planning promotes caregiver competence and confidence, thereby, building caregiver capacity.

**How is joint planning related to PIWI?**

PIWI promotes that the role of the EI Specialist is to partner with caregivers to address their needs and concerns for their child. The EI Specialist is a resource to the caregivers in developing their relationship with their child. This is accomplished

by creating a supportive and collaborative relationship with the caregivers and by joint planning (i.e., working together) with the caregivers to (a) learn about the routines and activities of their day through ongoing functional assessment and (b) identify opportunities during those everyday activities to strengthen and promote their competence, confidence, and mutual enjoyment of one another.

Opportunities to improve participation in activities that allow increased chances to practice new skills are identified through the EI Specialist-caregiver relationship and through joint planning. Through joint planning, the EI Specialist and caregivers determine the dyadic strategies that can be incorporated into caregiver-child interactions throughout the family’s typical day (e.g., mealtime) to support the child’s development and learning and enhance the caregiver-child relationship.

**References**

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