

**Beyond Bubbles and Blocks**

Information for EI Home Visitors



**Do you know what a Primary Service Provider approach means?**

A primary service provider (PSP) refers to the EI Specialist who is a member of a larger transdisciplinary team and is identified by the team to be the family’s main source of support and interaction on behalf of the team. In the PSP approach, one EI Specialist works with the family and child regularly and continuously.  EI Specialists from other disciplines who are needed to support the PSP can be brought in for consultation/co-treatment in team meetings or during visits with the caregiver and PSP. A PSP approach to teaming is characterized by the team members’ use of the PIWI philosophy and coaching practices to build the capacity of families and caregivers to promote child learning to feel more confident and competent.

**What are the potential benefits of a PSP approach?**

A PSP with a teaming approach is an evidence-based service delivery model that builds the capacity of *all* members of the IFSP team by developing new skills and helping them gain a deeper understanding of how to promote child learning and development within the context of interest-based, everyday learning opportunities.  The PSP approach promotes consistent, collaborative service. Having a PSP visit on a regular basis means the caregivers can focus on developing trust and rapport with one person, which supports the family's ability to know their rights, effectively communicate their child's needs, and help their child develop and learn.  This approach encourages teaming, thereby increasing the coordination of the IFSP process.  It also eliminates gaps in communication between caregivers and several EI Specialists in the home multiple times a week.  The PSP approach is based on research about the way children AND adults learn.

It promotes communication between team members to help achieve both IFSP outcomes and federal child and family outcomes.

**Reflect on your program and day-to-day practice**

* To what extent does your program (and you) use a PSP approach?
* What benefits have you seen (could you see) when using a PSP approach?
* How can a PSP approach help you understand the family, their culture, along with their everyday activities/routines?
* What potential challenges have you encountered (might you encounter) when using a PSP approach?

**References**

* Lineberger, A. (2022). Characteristics and consequences of a primary service provider approach to teaming in early intervention. *CASEinPoint, 9*(1), 1-5.
* Maturana, E., McComish, C., Woods, J., & Crais, E. (2011). Early intervention teaming and the primary service provider approach: Who does what, when, why and how? *Perspectives on Language Learning and Education, 18*(2), 47-52.
* Shelden, M. L. & Rush, D. D. (2022). *The early intervention teaming handbook: The primary service provider approach* (2nd ed.). Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.