



# Coaching Families to Support Children's Learning and Development

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) believes you are the expert about your child and have the most impact on your child's development. This means the way ECI delivers services may be different from other medical service providers. ECI provides services in places you and your child typically spend time. ECI also guides you on how to use everyday activities to help your child learn and develop anytime you interact with him/her.

ECI providers use a coaching approach to help families support their child's learning and development. Coaching has five steps. Your ECI provider will use all of these steps during each visit and some steps may be repeated many times during the same visit.

**1) Joint Planning:** At the beginning of the visit, you and your ECI provider will talk about the plan and goals from the last visit. You will share what you tried with your child and what did and didn't work. You and your ECI provider will also use joint planning to decide what to work on during that day's visit and to decide what the focus of the next visit should be.

**2) Observation:** Your provider will watch you and your child interact during daily activities. Your ECI provider will also observe you using strategies she suggested and any other strategies you tried.

**3) Action and Practice:** Your ECI provider will help you practice new ways to help your child learn and develop during your daily activities.

**4) Reflection:** Your ECI provider will ask questions for you to consider. For example, the ECI provider may ask what you think about a suggested strategy, or may ask for your thoughts on a challenge your child is having. Your provider will want you to reflect on which strategies are working well, which ones need to be changed, and when you can use each strategy.

**5) Feedback:** Your ECI provider will share information to build upon your knowledge and skills. Your ECI provider will help you figure out which strategies best help your child meet his/her goals.