Session 1:

Routines of a Home Visit
What happens in the beginning, middle and end of a visit?

Facilitating vs Coaching

How do you start a home visit?

What do you think the first few minutes of a visit should accomplish and why?

2814_Medina, OH.MOV

Opening - Building Connection (first 5-7 mins)

- Enter home, greet the family
- Opening routines
- Check in with open-ended questions
- Explain purpose of book or toy / review guide sheet

What happens during the visit?

BP_Video 2_Play cake trimmed.mp4

What stands out to you as the ELS's role during the interaction?

Terminology

Facilitating – guiding the experience

- Creates a welcoming, supportive space
- Keeps the visit flowing and engaging
- Encourages parent–child interaction
- Promotes learning through observation and participation

Terminology

Coaching – partnering for growth

- Works alongside parents toward shared goals
- Encourages reflection and problem-solving
- Provides feedback and celebrates progress
- Builds parent confidence and independence

Why facilitation of parent-child interaction + parent coaching?

Facilitation maintains parent as the child's "first and best teacher"

- Affirms caregiver capacity, competence, and strengths
- Builds developmentally supportive behaviors of the parent

(Moss et al., 2011; Peterson et al., 2007; Roggman et al., 2016),

- **Facilitation** is when the Early Learning Specialist helps parents and caregivers take the lead in their child's learning and supports positive interactions during the visit.

- **Coaching** is the process of working collaboratively with parents and caregivers to help them achieve their goals while supporting their child's learning and development.

Modeling can be a powerful tool, but there are some cautions to keep in mind when modeling for caregivers:

- **Modeling can limit thinking:**

Modeling can limit thinking and hold back parent abilities.

- **Modeling can foster dependency:**

Modeling can foster a dependency culture and take the place of deep learning.

- **Modeling can be stressful:**

Modeling can be stressful and high pressure.

Coaching – Like teaching someone to drive a car or ride a bike – you can't "model" it and expect them to learn, they must experience it themselves!



Lori Rogman, Developmental Parenting

How might you close or end a visit?

8GUIDESHEET (1).mp4

Why do you think it's important to end the visit with reflection and planning?
(last 5 mins)

How might you close or end a visit?

- Closing rituals (songs or routines to signal the end)
- Reflect on the visit
- Set and re-affirm family goals
- Engage in family co-planning – ideas that can be incorporated?
- Access to resources and referrals

ParentChild+
Equal Possibilities From The Start

Home visit checklist: Family Model

Opening ☑

- Greet the family warmly.
- Set up for video recording, if needed.
- Check-in about any updates, routines, or goals previously set.
- Explain the purpose of the book or toy and introduce relevant child development concepts.
- Begin with the opening ritual, if applicable (e.g., a song or culturally relevant routine).
- If the ELS is modeling any techniques, demonstrate and discuss the approach being used.

During visit ☑

Body Positioning:

- The Early Learning Specialist (ELS) should encourage physical closeness between parent and child by sitting beside the caregiver.

Invite and allow:

- Follow the lead of the caregiver and child. A simple way to do this is to hand the book or toy to the parent.

Use coaching + facilitation principles:

- **Observe** the parent-child interaction without interrupting positive moments or flows.
- **Comment** on positive interactions and share successes observed.
- **Connect** the caregiver's actions to the child's development.
- **Ask:** prompt questions that encourage reflection, using open-ended formats.

Closing ☑

- Complete any closing rituals (e.g., a routine signifying the end of the visit).
- Reflect on the visit by discussing observations from the parents about themselves and their child: What strengths did they identify?
- Set or reaffirm family goals: How can the ELS provide support to the caregivers?
- Engage in co-planning: Does the family have ideas for the next visit?