

Early Intervention and Child Care

What to expect during an Early Intervention visit

First Steps uses a coaching approach to support parents and caregivers in fostering the learning and development of infants and toddlers through everyday routines and interactions.



The **goal of early intervention providers is to partner with you.** Together, you will explore strategies that you can use with the child during and between visits. You are a valuable member of the team.

1

Before the visit

The early intervention (EI) visit takes place during everyday activities and routines in the classroom, like mealtime and playtime. You can prepare for the visit by reflecting on what you tried last week, what worked well, what the challenges were and what you would like to work on next.

2

During the visit

The EI provider will listen to your concerns and collaborate with you to support the child's learning and development in the classroom. This is what you can expect.

- **Observation:** The EI provider will observe how the child engages in daily routines, plays and interacts with peers. These observations help the EI provider understand the child's strengths and needs in familiar settings.
- **Practice:** During the visit, the EI provider will work directly with the child and model strategies that they may suggest for you to incorporate into the daily classroom routines.
- **Reflection and Review:** This is an opportunity for you to ask questions, discuss how strategies are working and identify ways to embed them as part of the daily routine.

3

After the visit

Together, you and the EI provider will reflect on the session and explore strategies to help the child thrive in daily routines between visits. It is the responsibility of the EI provider to follow up with the family after the visit.

Anyone can refer a family to First Steps. For more information on making a referral you may visit the First Steps website, FirstSteps.IN.gov, or scan the QR code at right.



Working together

It is important for families, child care educators and EI providers to work together. When they do, children are better supported to thrive in their daily routines. Each member of the IFSP team has a role.

Parents can:

- Provide consent to share child's Individual Family Service Plan.
- Invite educator(s) to the IFSP meetings.

Child care educators can:

- Welcome the EI provider into their child care setting and are open to attending EI meetings.
- Collaborate to implement EI strategies in their child care routines.

Early Intervention provider(s) will:

- Observe the child's strengths and needs in classroom routines.
- Communicate and model helpful strategies that foster the child's development.



Commonly asked questions

What background checks and credentials do First Steps providers have?

First Steps providers obtain a limited criminal history check through the Indiana State Police, carry liability insurance, and meet education and licensure requirements in their area of expertise as required by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. For additional details, speak with the child's First Steps provider.

Do I need to have a special space or materials for visits?

No, you do not need to provide a special space or materials. First Steps providers meet children in their everyday, natural environments. This includes staying inside the classroom to deliver support.

Am I able to know what you are working on with the child?

Yes, we want to collaborate with you and the family. If the parent provides written consent, you may attend meetings and have access to the IFSP.



Division of Disability, Aging
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