

Q: My provider said they are doing services a different way and I don't understand what they are talking about.

A: I can help with that! Indiana First Steps is adopting a new way of providing early intervention services statewide.

- It is called Family Guided Routines Based Intervention, also known as FGRBI.
- Not all providers are being trained at the same time. Some of your providers may be learning this new approach and others may be trained over the next few years.

FGRBI is a model that will help your child learn. It is based on research in child development and early intervention.

- The “FG” in FGRBI means family guided. Family guided means that you will share information with your providers that is important to you.
- The “RB” means routines based. Providers will ask you questions and watch you in routines like snack, play time, hand washing or other everyday activities you and your child do.
- The “I” in FGRBI means intervention. Intervention means change.
 - Your providers will talk with you about strategies you are already using that help support your child's learning and then add other strategies when needed to continue your child's development.
 - They will show you different options to try, practice with you to see what works, and then make an action plan to help you continue to practice until the next session.

Q: Why do some of my providers bring toys and others don't?

A: Providers using FGRBI will not bring a toy bag so that they can focus on the materials and toys your child is familiar with and will be using with you when they are not here (that is when the real work happens).

- For example: If you are working on grasping small objects, your provider may use a snack during snack time or some grass from your back yard rather than a special object that your provider brings.

Q: It seems like my provider is expecting me to do a lot. I thought the provider would work with my child.

A: Actually, our mission is to work with you, not your child. Our goal is for you to be able to advocate for your child and know what they need to develop and reach their highest potential.

Think of your providers as coaches. They ask questions and observe so that they can offer you strategies that will work for your routines.

You always have a choice. If participating in sessions with the provider does not work for your life right now, we can talk about other therapy options outside First Steps.