

FGRBI TALKING POINTS FOR SERVICE COORDINATORS TALKING TO FAMILIES

I want to share about how we provide services in Indiana so that you can decide whether First Steps will work for you.

- Our mission is to work with **you**, not just your child. This is different from a medical model of therapy that you might find in some clinical settings. Our services will focus on teaching you skills that will help your child develop and learn.
- Our goal is for **you** to be able to make decisions for your child and know what they need to reach their highest potential.

Because we value providing family-centered service and because we are always trying to improve the way we do things, Indiana First Steps is in the middle of 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.
- Regardless of whether your provider is using FGRBI, you will receive supportive services designed to help your child.

What is FGRBI?

- 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. Think of your provider as a coach. They will work with you to include strategies to help your child learn during your everyday activities and play.
- 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. That is where children learn best!
- The “I” in FGRBI means **intervention**. Intervention means change. You wouldn’t need us if you wanted to keep things exactly the same.

What will happen in a typical session?

- You may notice your provider **asks a lot of questions** during our visits. They want to learn about:
 - What you do at home
 - What you do in the community
 - What you enjoy doing with your child and family
 - What things you would like to do but may be a little difficult
- They are going to **listen and learn how they can support you** to teach your child *while you get the things done you need to do*.
- You may notice that they **spend some time observing** you and your child interacting during each visit. They want to be able to teach you strategies that will help and the best way for me to do that is to see what you are already doing.

- Providers using FGRBI will **focus on using 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 learning happens).
- As your coach, the provider will be **teaching you new strategies to try with your child during the activities and routines that are important** to your family.
- Before each visit ends, you and your provider will **develop a plan** for what you are going to do until the next session. Remember, you are the decision-maker. Your provider will help you make the plan, but it is up to you to decide what strategies and routines will work for you throughout the week.

Questions? Please ask anytime!