

Scaffolding with Caregivers to Elevate Quality

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KEIS Coaching in Early Intervention Training and Mentorship Program through contract with the Kentucky Department for Public Health

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Much like how scaffolding is used to elevate and support workers and materials during construction, repair, or cleaning of a building, while coaching we scaffold to elevate quality. This supports families around their priorities during early intervention sessions conducted in natural environments. This newsletter kicks off a four-part series, featuring opportunities to use scaffolding with families to maximize child and family outcomes. Specifically, we will highlight:

- Supporting caregivers to choose functional priorities
- Use of authentic materials from the natural environment
- Building on caregivers' knowledge to expand to complex reflective questions



Functional Priorities

Scaffolding outcomes and priorities: shift the focus from skill-based targets (e.g. pincer grasp) to functional priorities that are directly situated in the natural environment. Functional priorities focus on authentic routines and are relevant and meaningful to support participation in family life.



Functional priorities frame the visit as the foundational structure



Click above to see a video example of a session that targets a functional priority

Use of Family Materials

Scaffolding to eliminate use of toy bags or brought-in items: shift to using materials that are already present in the natural environment. Practice with authentic materials in daily routines allows opportunities for creative problem solving, and communicates to families in a strengths-based way that they have all the tools they need to help their child learn and develop.



The families' authentic materials are layered on top of the functional priorities to strengthen the routines



Click above to see a video example of a session that uses the family's materials

Building Complex Reflection

Scaffolding communication with caregivers: transition from statements and generic questions to facilitate higher-level caregiver reflections. Authentic conversation builds to more complex questions and supports caregiver engagement to partner and jointly problem-solve.



Click the button above to see a video example of reflective questions that grow in complexity



Building on functional priorities and authentic materials, reflective questions that grow in complexity and are responsive to the situation complete the session

Click [here](#) to visit our YouTube channel for more information about the Coaching in Early Intervention Training and Mentorship Program

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