

**FEBRUARY 3, 2015**  
**TALKS ON TUESDAYS WEBINAR**

PRESENTED BY **Dana Childress, M.Ed.**

**Let Go of the  
Toy Bag & Get Up Off  
the Floor!**

**Tips for Best Practices  
in Early Intervention**



**AUDIO DETAILS:**  
**1-866-842-5779**  
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[www.veipd.org/main/](http://www.veipd.org/main/)

**Early Intervention Strategies for Success Blog**  
[www.veipd.org/earlyintervention](http://www.veipd.org/earlyintervention)



What role  
do you play in  
early intervention?

- a. Early Intervention Service Provider
- b. Service Coordinator
- c. Local System Manager/ Supervisor
- d. Faculty
- e. Other

Collaborative EI in  
Daily Routines

The Toy Bag Dilemma

BEST PRACTICE  
BEST PRACTICE

Traditional EI  
on the Floor

## Mission of Early Intervention

Part C early intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities.

Workgroup on Principles and Practices in Natural Environments, OSEP TA Community of Practice: Part C Settings. (2008, March). Agreed upon mission and key principles for providing early intervention services in natural environments. Retrieved from

[http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/families/Finalmissionandprinciples3\\_11\\_08.pdf](http://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/topics/families/Finalmissionandprinciples3_11_08.pdf)



What do **YOU** think?

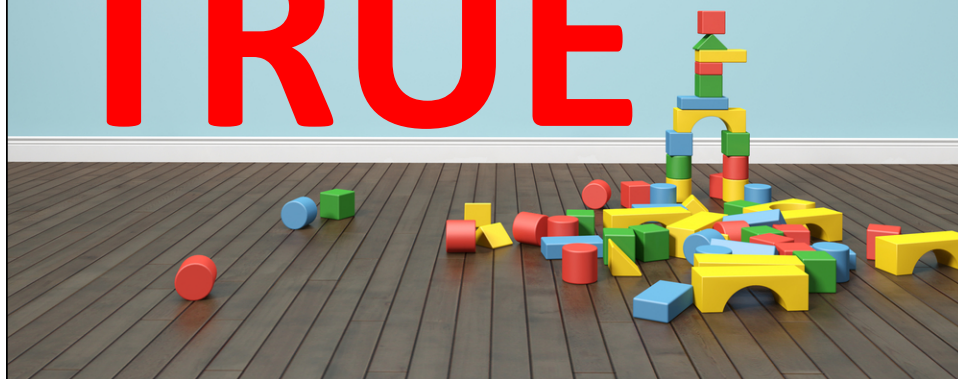
Most early intervention visits occur “on the floor” with the child engaging in toy play.



What do **YOU** think?

Most early intervention visits occur “on the floor” with the child engaging in toy play.

**TRUE**

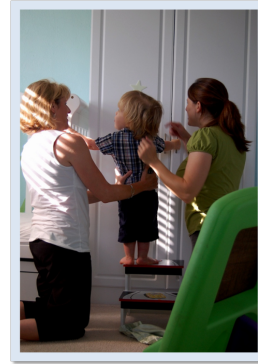




## Continuum of Early Intervention Practices



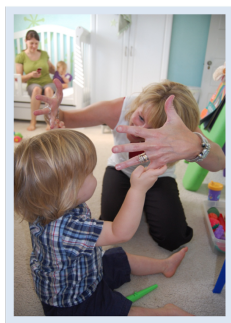
TRADITIONAL



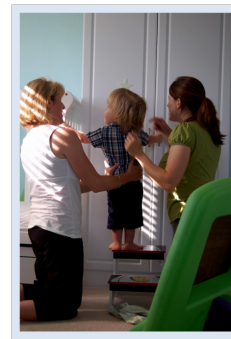
COLLABORATIVE



Where are **YOUR** practices on the continuum??



TRADITIONAL

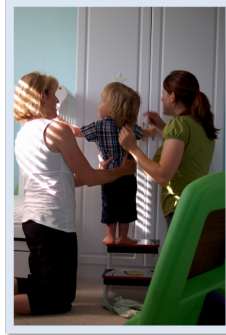


COLLABORATIVE

## How Do I Become **TRULY** Collaborative?



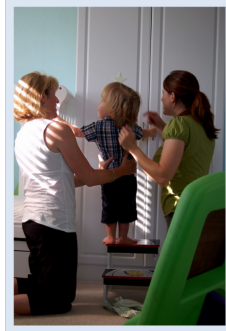
- Adopt family-centered practices
- Individualize intervention to specific child & family interests, priorities, & activities
- Focus on parent-child interaction & engagement



## How Do I Become **TRULY** Collaborative?

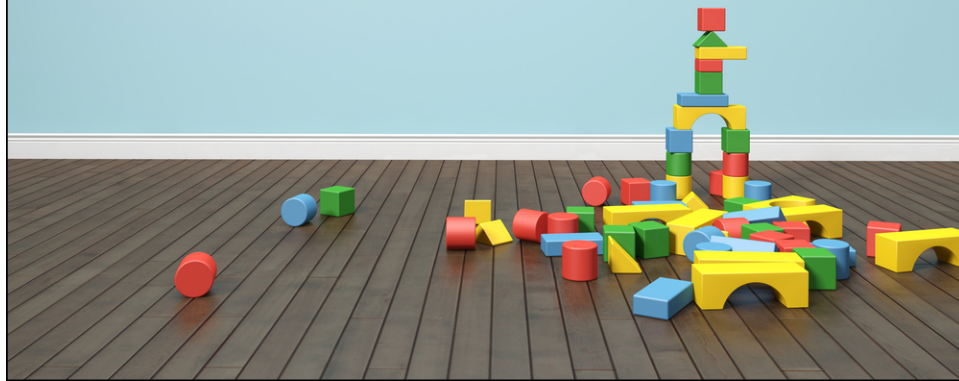


- Embrace a broad concept of “natural environments”
- Engage the parent as the “agent of change”
- Remember that most learning occurs between visits



What do **YOU** think?

Parents spend a lot of time playing with their children on the floor.



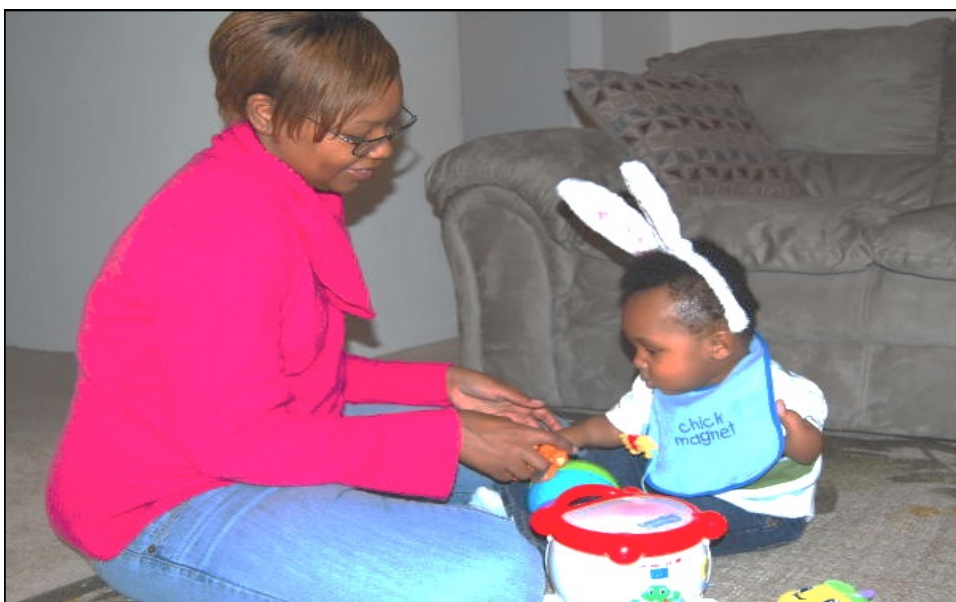
What do **YOU** think?

Parents spend a lot of time playing with their children on the floor.

**FALSE**



## Play Contexts in the Real World



Toy Play is still important...it's just not the ONLY routine we should be using for intervention!





**What Natural Learning Opportunities Do You See?**



## Why Do We Still Bring It?



## What Does the Toy Bag Communicate?



## No Toy Bag? What Are Your Options?



Use what the family has

Focus on playful interactions rather than toys



Get off the floor and explore other routines



## TIPS for Letting Go of the Toy Bag

- Step back and observe
- Ask the family about routines that go well & those that are challenging – then plan to join them!





## **TIPS** for Letting Go of the Toy Bag

- Wean yourself (and the child) by taking fewer toys each visit
- Leave the toy bag in the car
- Meet at a new location



When toy play is just one of many routines, you can more easily get off the living room floor!

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Your intervention world  
(and the family's)  
just got a lot bigger!



# TOP 3 TIPS

for Getting Off the Floor

- Go where they go, do what they do, seek out learning opportunities in the child's and family's everyday activities!
- ASK: What would you be doing if I wasn't here right now? ...then do that!
- Target a specific routine on the next visit



## YOU CAN DO IT

- Ease yourself into a new practice
- Start fresh with new families
- Partner with a colleague
- Do something different at each visit





***Let the Toy Bag Go  
& Get Up Off the  
Floor!***

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Find out more at:  
[www.veipd.org/main/](http://www.veipd.org/main/)  
[www.veipd.org/earlyintervention](http://www.veipd.org/earlyintervention)