



Naturalistic intervention is...

...a collection of practices including environmental arrangement, interaction, techniques, and strategies based on applied behavior analysis principles (e.g., modeling and time delay). These practices are designed to help toddlers develop skills in the areas of communication (both prelinguistic and linguistic) and social development by responding to the toddler in ways that are naturally reinforcing, appropriate to the interaction and build up to more elaborate behaviors.

EVIDENCE-BASED

PRACTICE (EBP):

Naturalistic Intervention

This information guide was designed as a supplemental resource to help answer basic questions about the EBP and provide you tips for implementation.

For more information, visit:
www.asdtoddler.fpg.unc.edu.

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Why Use a Naturalistic Intervention?

Motivating a toddler with ASD to initiate communication and engage in social interactions can be very challenging. Identifying and building upon a toddler's interests and working within daily routines and activities offer opportunities to increase meaningful engagement.

Where Can You Use a Naturalistic Intervention?

Naturalistic Intervention can be implemented in any home or center-based setting where a toddler spends time and is working on the development of communication and social skills. This may also include other community settings where the child and family spend time (e.g., library, pool, grocery store).

Who Can Use a Naturalistic Intervention?

Parents, other family members (e.g., siblings, grandparents), early interventionists (teachers and therapists), child care providers, and community members (e.g. clergy, librarians) who have received training from a team lead in the toddler's naturalistic intervention can use Naturalistic Intervention.

Tips for Implementing the Practice

Have you...?

- Identified a target behavior
- Collected baseline data
- Identified the context for intervention, including
 - settings
 - high interest routines and activities, and
 - other rewards
- Identified who will be involved: *Where? When? & How?*
- Identified training needs and provided training on naturalistic interventions
- Identified ongoing needs for training, coaching and support



Plan

Have you...?

- Arranged the environment with high interest activities to elicit the target behavior
- Identified the naturally occurring strategies you will use to elicit the target behavior
- Engaged the toddler in an interaction using high interest activities and identified rewards
- Used data to determine if the added structure of behavioral strategies are needed to elicit target behaviors



Implement

Have you...?

- Identified a practical, and doable data collection system
- Identified who will collect data: *Where? When? & How Often?*
- Determined where you will keep the data and how you will share it
- Collected data to monitor progress toward target behaviors
- Planned ways for the interventionists to analyze data to determine next steps (e.g., team meetings, one-to-one consultations, email exchange of information)



Monitor