

Quick Guide: DEC Recommend Practices and Early Intervention

As an Early Intervention (EI) provider, you play an essential role in supporting each child's learning, development, and sense of belonging.

The **DEC Recommended Practices (RPs)** provide practical evidence-informed strategies to strengthen your work with children. The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is an international membership organization for those who work with, or on behalf of, young children with or at-risk of developmental delays and disabilities and their families.

Scan this code to read the RPs: <https://ectacenter.org/decrp/decrp.asp>



DEC RP Topics



ASSESSMENT

Learn about child strengths, needs, interests, and progress.



ENVIRONMENT

Create spaces, materials, and routines that support participation.



FAMILY

Honor family culture, priorities, routines, and choices.



INSTRUCTION

Learn during everyday activities and routines.



INTERACTION

Build warm, responsive relationships that support learning.



LEADERSHIP

Share decision-making, advocate, and support positive outcomes.



TEAMING AND COLLABORATION

Working together at home, school, child care, and with therapists.



TRANSITION

Change from hospital to home, early intervention to preschool, or preschool to kindergarten.

RPs Help You:

- **Embed** developmental support into a family's everyday routines so infants and toddlers learn in the places they spend the most time.
- **Coach** caregivers to use strategies that build their child's communication, social-emotional skills, and independence throughout the day.
- **Coordinate** services across agencies and providers to ensure families receive seamless, team-based support under Part C requirements.
- **Support** smooth transitions from early intervention to or from other programs and services by preparing families, sharing information, and collaborating with receiving programs.



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EXAMPLE RP

- F1.** Practitioners engage the family in opportunities that support and strengthen parenting knowledge and skills and parenting competence and confidence in ways that are flexible, individualized, and tailored to the family's preferences.

IN PRACTICE

Starting a visit by asking a parent about a behavior or activity they'd like to focus on.

Scan this code to read the **Family-Centered Practices** practice guide and more:



<https://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-pqpractitioner.asp>

PERFORMANCE CHECKLISTS

The checklists can be used as self-evaluation tools for practitioners and leaders to increase understanding and use of RPs, but they are not intended for monitoring practitioner performance.

Scan this code to read the **Family-Centered Practices** checklist and more:



<https://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-checklists.asp>

ecta Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

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