

THE SCRIPT: EXPLAINING THE ROUTINES-BASED MODEL TO FAMILIES AND OTHERS

Explaining the Routines-Based Interview and its associated practices, Routines-Based Home Visits, and Collaborative Collaboration to Children's Classrooms can be daunting for new implementers of the practices. This script is designed to be the elevator pitch for the model.

WHO THIS SCRIPT IS DESIGNED FOR

The script is designed for early intervention 0-5 professionals to use when explaining to families or other professionals why we do what we do. Some families have no expectations from early intervention, so they do not ask why we do what we do. Other families might have been told about early intervention provided another way or even have experienced a different form of intervention. These families might ask

- “Why don't I have all my therapists coming to see me?” (Answer: They'll come when you and I need help.)
- “Why do I have the same person every week?” (Answer: So we can work together intensively for the sake of your child and family and we can build on interventions we have previously discussed.)
- “Why aren't you working with my child?” (Answer: Because I'm working with you, and you are a better teacher of your child. You are with your child much more than I am and you have more opportunities to teach your child than I do.)
- “Where's your toy bag?” (Answer: I'm here to work with you, and you already have toys.)
- “Why do I have to be present for the whole visit?” (Answer: I came to see you.)

The script below covers these points.

WHY WE HAVE THIS SCRIPT

We have this script to ensure professionals convey the accurate message about how the Routines-Based Model works. Perhaps more important, the script helps the professional who has not yet developed an internal script to have a way of explaining the model. The script is a little long, but don't be afraid to say to the parent, “Let me read to you why we do what we do.” Pay attention to the footnotes that might apply to your situation.

SCRIPT

In our program, we are using the Routines-Based Model. This model recognizes that young children learn throughout the day, not in early intervention sessions. The purpose of our visits is to build your capacity to meet your child's unique needs and your family's needs, as you define them. I will therefore visit you every week¹ to work on the goals you set for your child and family. I² will help you figure out what those goals are, related to helping your child participate meaningfully and successfully in your child's and family's typical times of the day, which is what we mean by "routines." I will be your primary service provider³, and other professionals will help us, as needed. We have a few principles that guide our work with you:

- *We ask ourselves, "Whose child is it? That is, we don't make decisions that **families** themselves can make ."*
- *All the intervention occurs between visits.*
- *We use persistent caring.*
- *We have an ethical obligation to provide families with information.*
- *We have to make sure your bucket is full, so you have something to give to your child.*
- *If your child or you have suffered any trauma, we support your resilience.*
- *We support your family's unique and cultural preferences, to promote equity.*
- *We follow evidence-based practices so we don't waste your time or mislead you.*
- *We are there for the whole family, including the child, and not only the child.*

If we follow these principles, you will be confident; you will have satisfying relationships with your family, neighbors, and friends; you will have access to help; your child will function well at home, school, and in the community; and you will enjoy being a parent.

6.14.21

Dunst, C. J. (2000). Revisiting "Rethinking Early Intervention". *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education, 20*, 95-104.

¹ Adjust this statement, if your program has not switched to weekly visits.

² In some situations, this will need to change to "Your service coordinator...."

³ If the primary service provider approach has not yet been established, say "comprehensive service provider."