



Practice Brief: Practice 6

To help collect and analyze data on embedded instruction...

Implement strategies to help determine whether I am implementing instructional learning trials with fidelity (i.e., Am I doing it?).

Practice description:

There are three key questions to evaluating embedded instruction. The first question is: Am I doing it? This question relates to the implementation of embedded instruction. There are a variety of data collection strategies that can be used to determine whether you are implementing instructional learning trials with fidelity (i.e., implemented as planned). Given the different aspects of embedded instruction, data can be collected on when instruction occurs; how many learning trials are being provided, and whether the learning trials provided are complete or correct learning trials. The data you collect will be informed by and compared with your implementation plan. You might graph your data to identify differences between what you planned and what has occurred. It is important to note that embedded instruction is effective when complete or correct learning trials are being implemented. Teaching teams might be implementing lots of embedded learning opportunities, however, they are more likely to support child learning if they complete or correct learning trials.

Why is it important for embedded instruction?

If teachers are not implementing intentional and systematic embedded instruction, then we would not expect children to make progress toward their learning targets. Having a strategy for evaluating whether you are implementing embedded instruction as planned provides essential information to interpret data related to child progress and make decisions about the changes you will make to instruction.

Tips for using this practice:

- Three questions are relevant to help address the evaluation of implementation fidelity:
 1. Are learning trials occurring in the activities in which we planned for them to occur?
 2. Are the numbers of planned trials occurring in these activities?
 3. Are the components (the A-B-Cs) implemented so that complete or correct learning trials occur?
- Graphing provides a visual representation of your data to help identify patterns and make data-based decisions.
- Comparing planned, implemented, and complete or correct learning trials within or across activities can help identify factors that maybe influencing your implementation.