



Practice Brief: Practice 4

To help develop an activity matrix it is useful to...

Consider how the activity matrix is used to record when and how many learning opportunities to embed for individual children.

Practice description:

The Activity Matrix helps to plan and record when, where, and how many complete learning trials will be embedded within the typical classroom activity. Activity matrices vary in their in format (use shorthand or provide more details) and function (individual child, a few children, or group), but the basic layout and purpose are generally the same. The activity matrix is a grid with your usual schedule of activities listed down the left column and the names of children or learning targets across the top. Within the cells, write which priority learning targets you plan to provide instruction on, how many learning trials you aim to provide, who will provide the learning trials, or other relevant information for embedded instruction (e.g., possibly a note about the instructional strategy or amount/type of support planned). The activity matrix is a working document for you and your team – make sure you review and update it regularly.

Why is it important for embedded instruction?

The activity matrix is an easy visual plan for you and your team to follow. Having a well-developed plan helps ensure that you deliver embedded instruction when, where, and as often as planned. The activity matrix will help in providing children with sufficient embedded instruction learning trials within and across activities, routines, and transitions that are natural or logical times for teaching their priority learning targets.

Tips for using this practice:

- Remember - the activity matrix does not mean the team will never teach the target behavior during unplanned activities if a natural or logical opportunity presents itself.
- Use the information you've identified about activity fit as well as which format for implementation (massed, spaced, distributed) to inform the development of the activity matrix.
- Consider the availability of adults to support learning as you plan the number of trials across learning targets and children.
- Involve the team in developing and updating the activity matrix.
- Devise a system that allows you to make regular and easy updates to the activity matrix, for example using a whiteboard and post-it notes.
- Post your activity matrix so you and the team can see it daily.