Practice-Based Coaching and the Pyramid Model Family Agreement

What is Practice-Based Coaching?

Practice-Based Coaching (PBC) is a way to support early interventionists in strengthening their skills to provide services to families and caregivers that promote the development and learning of young children. In PBC, the early interventionist and their coach develop a professional development plan, and the coach observes them in their work and provides feedback. The person in the role of the coach is another early interventionist or professional in the program.

Why is PBC being used?

Our early intervention program uses PBC to strengthen our use of the Pyramid Model for Promoting the Social Emotional Competence of Infants and Young Children. The Pyramid Model is a framework of evidence-based practices that families and early interventionists can use to promote young children's social and emotional development. We want to support all families and caregivers as they guide the child's social-emotional development as it is essential for:

- Supporting healthy brain development.
- Improving developmental outcomes for children.
- Strengthening children's ability to create and maintain relationships with others.
- Building children's ability and confidence to explore and learn new things.
- Developing skills in communication, emotional regulation, and problem-solving.

Your early interventionist has a coach who will observe and provide feedback on their use of Pyramid Model practices during early intervention sessions with families and caregivers.

Where and when does PBC occur?

PBC can occur wherever early intervention visits typically happen (e.g., in the home, community settings, or child care). Your early interventionist will communicate with you in advance to request permission for a coach to attend your session.

How does it happen?

Your early interventionist's coach will observe their use of specific Pyramid Model practices tied to their professional development plan as they work with you. If you provide permission, a coach might attend your regularly scheduled early intervention session, or your early interventionist might ask to set up a laptop for the coach to watch (via live streaming) or video record what they are doing during the EI session. None of this will occur unless you have granted your permission.

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How does PBC differ from the early intervention coaching I am receiving?

PBC is a professional development approach to support early interventionists' use of Pyramid Model practices during intervention sessions with families and caregivers. Early intervention coaching is what early interventionists provide to families and caregivers to support them as they guide the child's skill development in everyday routines and activities.

How does this help me and my child?

Your early interventionist will strengthen their use of practices that will help you build your confidence and ability using practices that can deepen your connection with your child, help the child regulate emotions, communicate, participate in everyday routines and activities, and help you learn skills to prevent, teach new skills, and respond when your child is experiencing big emotions or challenging situations.

What is my role in the PBC process?

You do not need to change anything about how you participate during time with your early interventionist. You are being asked to provide permission for a coach to attend these sessions in person or virtually or to allow video recording portions of your session.

Coach Responsibilities

As your early interventionist's coach, I commit to:

- Listen and learn about your beliefs and preferences towards participating as a partner in your early interventionist's professional development.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be approachable and transparent.
- Be respectful, non-judgmental, and supportive to the early interventionist, you, the family, and the child when I observe.
- Be organized, prepared, and respectful of your time with your early interventionist.
- I will only record video or document information to observe your early interventionist's use of a practice that supports their professional development goal.
- Prioritize creating a professional development partnership with you and your early interventionist that is a safe space for open and mutual communication.

Early Interventionist Responsibilities

As your early intervention provider, I commit to:

- Offer choices regarding how you would like to participate in the process.
- Watch, listen, and learn from you about your beliefs and preferences towards your participation as a partner in my professional development.
- Communicate your preferences for how you would like to be involved in the PBC process.
- Share concerns when the coach's practices, strategies, or supports do not align with your values or preferences.
- Maintain confidentiality.
- Be approachable and transparent.
- Be consistently organized and prepared for our early intervention sessions.
- Ask permission for the coach's presence or use of video before the session.
- When using video, I will communicate the purpose and the practice that will be observed.
- Be responsive to your questions and needs around the PBC process.

Family Voice and Choice

As a family member, I can:

- Continue to receive early intervention services that benefit me and my child and address our family's values and priorities.
- Ask questions anytime to help me understand the PBC process, role, and participation choices.
- Communicate what I need if I feel uncomfortable at any point.
- Be assured that participating as a collaborative partner in my early interventionist's professional development is a choice, and I can change my mind about participating at any time.
- Ask to receive copies of any videos that are recorded or ask to have videos deleted after they have been used for PBC.

Participation Agreement

- ☐ Yes, I am willing to participate. I provide permission to allow coaching of the early interventionist during my child's early intervention sessions.
- ☐ I am open to possibly participating in the future, but I still need more information.
- ☐ No, I would not like my family to be included at this time.

Are you willing to give your permission for your early interventionist to call on the day of an early intervention session to ask about their coach's participation or video recording if another family cancels?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you willing to allow your early interventionist or their coach to video record portions of your session to document your early interventionist's use of Pyramid Model practices for their professional development? *Please note that the coach and your early interventionist will only view video recordings for professional development.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe - I would like to share my preferences in what can or cannot be recorded before saying yes.
- ☐ No

_____ _____

Family Signature Date Early Interventionist Signature Date

_____

Coach Signature Date