



Evidence-Based Practice Tip Sheet Series

JOINT VISITS

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WHAT ARE JOINT VISITS?

A method of providing role assistance in which another team member joins the primary service provider (PSP) on an early intervention visit to support the PSP, the child's caregivers, and the child. This role assistance encompasses coaching, conducting functional assessment, providing technical support, and the sharing of knowledge and expertise (Shelden & Rush, 2022).



WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT JOINT VISITS IN PART C EARLY INTERVENTION?

Joint visits are a necessary component when implementing a primary service provider approach to teaming and are intended to happen in a timely and effective manner.

Joint visits are planned when a question or issue is identified by the primary service provider (PSP), family members, other caregivers, or other team members that cannot be addressed within the team meeting.

Joint visits are carefully planned with the purpose of obtaining support for the PSP and/or caregivers. They are intended to happen within the context of the real-life activity setting in which the family and PSP needs support.

The frequency of joint visits should be driven by the PSP's need for support to address the needs of the child, family or other caregivers. (Shelden & Rush, 2022)



WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT JOINT VISITS?

Although the the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) does not address specific joint visit practices, it does promote use of **evidence based practices**. [IDEA 34 CFR 303.1](#) states that: "A statewide system described in section 1433 of this title shall include, at a minimum, the following components: . . . (a) (2) A State policy that is in effect and that ensures that appropriate early intervention services based on scientifically based research, to the extent practicable, are available to all infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families . . ." Additionally, [Wisconsin Administrative Code - Dept. of Health Services, Chapter 90.11.\(2\).\(a\).\(1\)](#). outlines the general conditions and general role of providers of early intervention services.

Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program Operations Guide
see Chapter 10: Early Intervention Services



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINT VISITS IN PART C EARLY INTERVENTION?

- ✔ Joint visits provide an opportunity for sharing information and different perspectives between the primary service provider (PSP) and other team members.
- ✔ Joint visits promote learning opportunities, build the capacity of the PSP, and help to build trust and respect among team members.
- ✔ Joint visits prioritize opportunities for parents and/or caregivers to interact with other team members and gain insight into their perspective.
- ✔ Joint visits help to ensure that the child, caregivers, and PSP have access to the knowledge and expertise of needed team members to support the achievement of IFSP outcomes. (Shelden & Rush, 2022)

WHAT ARE CONSIDERATIONS FOR JOINT VISITS IN PART C EARLY INTERVENTION?



Purpose: How does your team ensure that the joint visit stays aligned with its intended purpose of securing support for the primary service provider (PSP) and/or caregivers?

Prepare: How does your team prepare for joint visits including clearly identifying the question or issue requiring support, sharing important background information, determining the context of the visit, and identifying roles?

Primary Relationship: During joint visits, how does your team intentionally acknowledge and respect the existing relationship between the primary service provider and the family?

Joint Plan: What strategies does the primary service provider use to ensure a joint plan is developed prior to the conclusion of the joint visit?

Debrief: How does your team debrief joint visits to evaluate the usefulness, determine next steps, and ensure the primary service provider received adequate support?

Frequency: How does your team assess the frequency of joint visits to ensure they align with the identified needs without being excessive or insufficient?

Please see reference page for sources utilized within the evidence-based practice tip sheet series.

