

## AMBASSADOR INSIGHTS



What advice would you give to a new early interventionist?

### Here are some quotes from our EI in WI Ambassadors:

Never be afraid to ask questions. We are all always learning from each other.

It's so important to build a trusting relationship with a family and meet them where they are at. Real change happens when families know we are on their team and that we share in the ups and downs together.

Be open minded, not every family is cookie-cut out, there are chapters to their stories, actively listen and validate.

"How you are is just as important as what you do"- I didn't come up with this, I just like it :)

A parent's capacity for taking on new learning is just as important to support as a child's developmental readiness for new skills.

The most important thing you can do when meeting/speaking with a family for the first time is to be an active listener; be present and truly hear them. This will set the stage for all things that come next and allow them to feel heard and safe.

A child's delay does not define them. The joy in Birth to Three is helping the family discover all of the treasures their child brings to their family.

## AMBASSADOR INSIGHTS



What advice would you give to a new early interventionist?

Parents are always doing the best that they know how to.

Learn as much as you can from your team! Shadow them/co-treat on visits as much as possible at first, to see everyone's different styles, and learn skills hands-on from their area of expertise. I learned more from my co-workers the first year by doing visits with them, than I did from any sort of formal training.

Don't be afraid to say you don't know something. Don't be afraid to say you need to research something more, or that you need to ask a team member. Families appreciate honesty.

Wear clothing appropriate for sitting/crawling around on floors. Always have hand sanitizer in your car.

Remember, you may be the "expert" in your field, but the parent is the expert in their child.

This baby/child is everything to these parents so meet them where they are at. Be prepared to laugh, cry and be frustrated throughout your journey with them.

It is very easy to get wrapped up in paperwork- at the end of the day ask yourself if a family feels heard and supported- that is the key- as the paperwork is important- it can wait!

## AMBASSADOR INSIGHTS



What advice would you give to a new early interventionist?

Withhold judgment and instead seek understanding

Welcome to the amazing world of Birth-3! You get to lift up and empower the parents/caregivers and help them see how amazing their child is. You get to show the family how they can help their child learn and grow in so many little, yet important ways. It's such a privilege to guide the families and see the spark between a child and parent/caregiver when the child gains a new skill.

As a primary provider, I am supported by my entire team which allows me to build my capacities and strengths as a home visitor. This helps me support parents so they can build their capacities and strengths. When parents are supported they are in the best position to build the capacities and strengths of their child.

Start with identifying child and caregiver strengths. Highlight what strategies the parents are already naturally incorporating into play and daily routines with their child. This provides valuable feedback for parents and builds a trusting relationship between parents and provider.

Don't give up on hard to engage families. There's always a way in... you just haven't found it yet.