



LEARNINGbyte

Interest-based Learning

Child Interests Can Drive Outcomes and EI Implementation



PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to support learners as they consider child interests and everyday routines to promote family-centered IFSP outcomes and interest-based EI implementation.



RESOURCES NEEDED

- Blog – [7 Specific Questions to Ask When Exploring Family Routines](#) (can be downloaded as handout)



SPECIFIC STEPS

1. Either link to the blog or pass out the downloadable article, *7 Specific Questions to Ask When Exploring Family Routines*.
2. Ask participants to put a star ★ next to one of the specific questions that they think will give them the most information to support families in writing an IFSP outcome.
3. As a large group, determine which question garnered the most stars. Ask participants why they thought this question was the most important or powerful.
4. Now ask participants to consider the following vignette (read aloud):
 - Vignette: Jasmine is a 30 month old who loves the movie, *“Finding Dory.”* Jasmine’s bedroom is designed with Dory wallpaper and her toddler bedspread is printed with all of the characters from the movie. Jasmine frequently carries small toys of Dory and Nemo in each hand. Even her placemat, toddler plate, and toddler fork and spoon contain Dory pictures. Jasmine qualifies for early intervention services due to an expressive language delay. Her outcome focuses on encouraging her to use two word phrases to label and request things she wants.
5. Using the vignette, instruct participants to work with a partner to adapt 2-3 of the 7 specific questions from the blog as questions they could ask Jasmine’s parents to begin formulating outcomes.
 - **Examples:**

Blog 7 Specific Question	New Questions
What do you do during bathtime? What does your child do? Why?	What do you do during bedtime? What does Jasmine do? How could we use Jasmine’s bedroom decorations as we think about language? What two-word phrases could we identify? <i>(Dory sleep, Nemo bed, Dory night-night)</i>

Blog 7 Specific Question	New Questions
How does bathtime work for you and your child? Tell me about what happens before, during, and after bathtime	How does mealtime work for you and Jasmine? Tell me what happens before, during, and after mealtime. What words could we encourage Jasmine to use during mealtimes? <i>(Dory eat, Nemo drink, Dory spoon)</i>
What strategy would you like to try during bathtime this week?	Thinking about all the places Jasmine sees “Finding Dory” characters, where would you like to focus on specific two-word phrases throughout her day? What phrases do you want to try?

- Debrief by sharing new questions participants developed focusing attention on how their open-ended questions specific to Jasmine’s interests assisted in considering outcomes or a joint plan for future visit.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Building on Child Strengths Practices Checklist \(ECTA Center\)](#)
- [Child Interest Activity Checklist \(Puckett Institute\)](#)