



LEARNINGbyte

Other Topics

Supporting Caregivers to Engage their Toddler with Autism



PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

This activity is designed to consider tips and strategies to support caregivers in engaging with their child with autism or autism-like characteristics.



RESOURCES NEEDED

- **Blog** - [Supporting Toddlers with Autism by Changing OUR Behavior](#) (can be downloaded as handout)



SPECIFIC STEPS

1. Before the meeting, tell participants that you will be discussing tips and strategies that can be shared with caregivers as they support their toddler with autism or autism-like characteristics.
2. Begin by inviting participants to share if they have a child for whom they provide services with either an autism diagnosis or autism-like characteristics. Ask what common IFSP goals are frequently identified for toddlers with this diagnosis.
3. Either link to the blog or pass out the downloadable article, *Supporting Toddlers with Autism by Changing OUR Behavior*. Instruct participants to read it, thinking about their own practices.
4. Ask participants to put a star ★ next to the suggested tips/strategies that they routinely practice. Ask participants to put a circle ○ next to any of the strategies/tips that are new strategies they would like to implement. Identify which tips or strategies have the most circles.
5. Instruct participants to talk with a partner how they want to put the circle tips/strategies in place on their next visit. Ask them to focus on how they will share this information with caregivers. What coaching strategies will they use? NOTE: This could also be done as a large group discussion.
6. As a large group, discuss how Peter's story might change any outcomes that may be routinely added to IFSPs for those children with autism or autism-like characteristics. What different types of outcomes might be added instead?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blog

- [DEC Recommended Practices – Interaction \(Part I\)](#)

Talks on Tuesday

- [Neurotypical Brain Development: “How Different Is It from Autism, ADHD, Language Delay, etc.?”](#)

Website

- [VCU Autism Center for Excellence](#)