



## A Family Centered Approach to Developing Quality Outcomes Sept 2010 Training What TIDEWATER Learned about Describing EI Supports & Services to Families

Based on what they learned during training, early intervention (EI) practitioners in the Tidewater region of Virginia shared these statements as examples of how they will use what they learned when explaining EI Supports and Services to families:

"We're teaching you things to do as a parent."

"If we are doing our jobs right, we will be coaching you in what you can do to help."

"We will be switching title from "therapist" to "service provider"; it helps separate services from the medical model."

"The parent is the 1st educator; you are the most important teacher."

"We will give strategies to parents to use every day (as opposed to 1-2x/week.)"

"Ask the parent what they would like for the child to do in their environment."

"The EI role is to help the family figure out ways to have their child participate in family activities."

"We have to explain the developmental model early in the process- at intake and reiterate it at IFSP development."

"Think about the Natural Environment for your family- what does that look like to you?"

"Help them use common household items vs. very specific toys."

"Many skills are used in an activity each day; for example, eating involves language, motor, cognition etc."

"Ask parent about his/her learning style."