



## Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

### APR 2022 CCSS: Military Children and Youth: Extending Force Protection to our Nation's most Valuable Assets

#### S02: Coaching that Empowers Families to Help Their Children: An Early Intervention Approach

##### Resource List

In the article [Early Intervention Service Delivery via Telehealth During COVID-19: A Research-Practice Partnership](#) (2021) the authors discuss the rapid evolution of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the clinical importance of caregiver coaching in effective early intervention (EI) services. The authors also considered previous studies that demonstrated that telehealth service models are efficacious with various neurodevelopmental conditions, such as autism and Fragile X syndrome. During this research-practice partnership synchronous telehealth sessions in EI were conducted, with the goal of assessing progress in reaching caregiver identified goals for young children. Barriers to effective modeling opportunities were discussed in the realm of telehealth. The EI providers in this research-practice partnership were trained and community based practitioners. During the nine week study coaching intervention delivered through telehealth appeared to be effective in promoting child goals and parent reported satisfaction. Interestingly, the results also indicated that the success of this intervention did not differ between families that received in-home services prior to commencing telehealth.

[Navigating Early Intervention Services](#) (2021) is a parent resource article that discusses the importance of EI services. The Military One Source article discusses the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), which is an entity that collaborates with community and military agencies to identify appropriate EI support networks. Knowing where to start can be a challenge, as different EI programs are called different names depending on location. This resource does not just provide information about locating EI services; it also reviews milestones and tools to assist in identifying the need for services. Once those needs are identified, the article reviews what the typical next steps may be, so that a parent may better prepare themselves.

[Occupational Therapists' Perspectives on Family-Centered Practices in Early Intervention](#) (2021) is another article that notes the importance of engaging family in service provision. It investigates how occupational therapists (OTs) employ family-centered practice (FCP) within intervention, as well as therapists' perspectives on using this practice model in EI. This article reviews how there was inconsistency in how FCP was defined, and some of the clinicians who were surveyed expressed insecurity with incorporating it in to their service provision. The participants of the survey all indicated there is limited evidence-based practice guidelines on FCP models.

The article [Coaching approaches in early intervention and paediatric rehabilitation](#) (2020) discusses some ambiguities that are seen when it comes to coaching practices applied to EI and pediatric rehabilitation. One such example is the lack of clarity between coaching and family training. This article also reviewed the importance of incorporating adult learning processes and knowledge acquisition in the application of coaching, along with the need to transform attitudes, beliefs and treatment habits. The intent of this article is to review the barrier encountered and introduce ideas that can be implemented in order to successfully employ coaching in EI approaches.



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### References

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- Military One Source. (2021). *Navigating Early Intervention Services*.  
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- Ziegler, S.A. & Hadders-Algra, M. (2020) Coaching approaches in early intervention and pediatric rehabilitation. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*. John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of Mac Keith Press. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dmcn.14493>