

Naturalistic Teaching

BTT'S PARENT CORNER

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What is naturalistic teaching?

Naturalistic teaching is when you use a child's interest, especially on a routine basis, such as play, bath, reading, snack, or mealtime routine, to teach your child a new set of skills.

How does it work?

It allows your child to guide you in the things that they are interested in. You, as a parent, enter into their "world."

What does that look like?

Scenario: Child is playing with cars and car ramp

Parent: Focus on modeling language (e.g. ready, set, go; up; down; push car; go car). Introduce different language, such as adjectives (e.g. fast, slow, bumpy, shiny), verbs (e.g. push, go, drive), turn-taking, possessives (e.g. mine, yours), or nouns (e.g. car, truck, bus, train).

Why should I implement this learning strategy?

A naturalistic approach allows the child to have maximum engagement because it is an activity that they like. It allows for generalization of learned skills because they are applying the new learned skills to an already existing "natural" environment.

What should I learn from this?

Children learn best when they are doing what they enjoy the most. By entering into their "world" you are providing them with opportunities to practice something that did not exist in their world before. Children learn through experiences. Actively engage with your child in their play. Present to them scenarios and words that they would not have imagined on their own. Spark their imagination!

Disclaimer: Parent Corner is intended to support parents through early intervention therapy. It does not serve to replace therapeutic services.