

Supporting Families Transitioning to In-Person Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) Services

Prepare, Support, Safety, and Care



This document is intended to support the ESIT Tri-Stage Framework for Reentry to In-Person Service Delivery. For more information, visit the Department of Children, Youth, and Families website: www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19/esit.

Goal

To support effective communication and partnership with families in shifting to in-person services, prioritizing safety, and maximizing developmental progress.

Prepare

Speak with families on the phone to discuss options for how to continue services. Use state and agency guidance to support this conversation: talk through agency requirements, discuss household risk factors, provide information regarding your agency's service options, and inform them of agency-specific mitigation strategies. If possible, during a tele-practice session before your first in-person visit, show children, including siblings, what you will look like wearing a mask.

Coaching will continue to be an important practice because it allows providers to maintain social distancing. Research shows that it leads to improved child and family outcomes (be sure to give examples of ways you've seen families take the lead during tele-practice sessions).

Support

Remind families that although you are returning to in-person visits, sessions may not be the same as before.

You will continue to rely on and utilize parent coaching as you did during virtual home visits. If a family didn't participate in virtual sessions, talk them through what a session might look like. Share with them that parent coaching is the best practice for birth-to-3 ESIT services and that you will use these strategies during in-person visits.

Safety

Assure them that safety guidelines will be followed with all families. Extra precautions are being taken to ensure their safety and your own, and the safety of other families you work with. Consider providing an extra mask for the child to play with and explore during your first session.



Care

Convey your ongoing commitment to providing family support and quality services during this challenging time.

Working with infants, toddlers, and their families is work we love, and we can support each other in doing it safely.

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).

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