

Centering Parents' Voices:

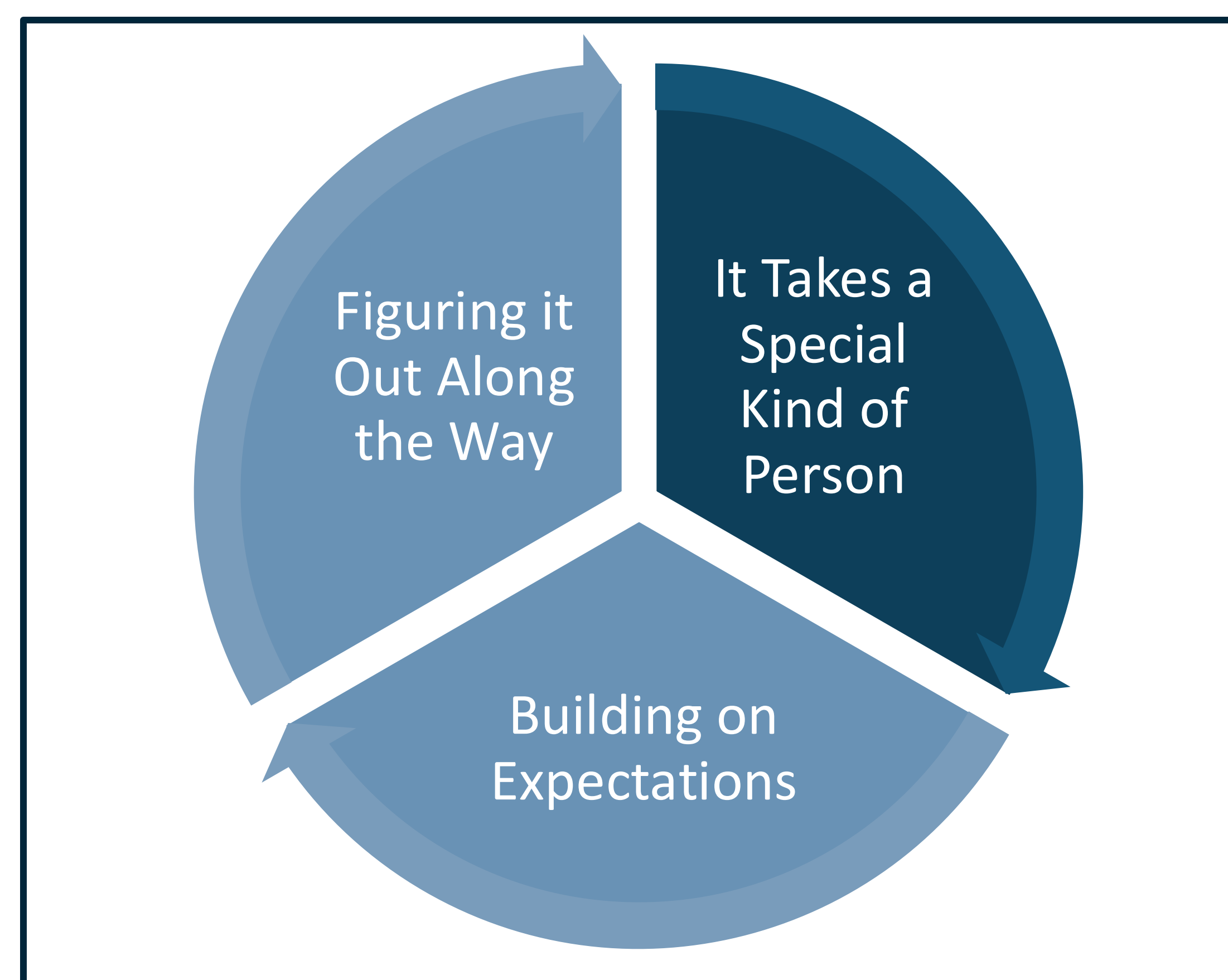
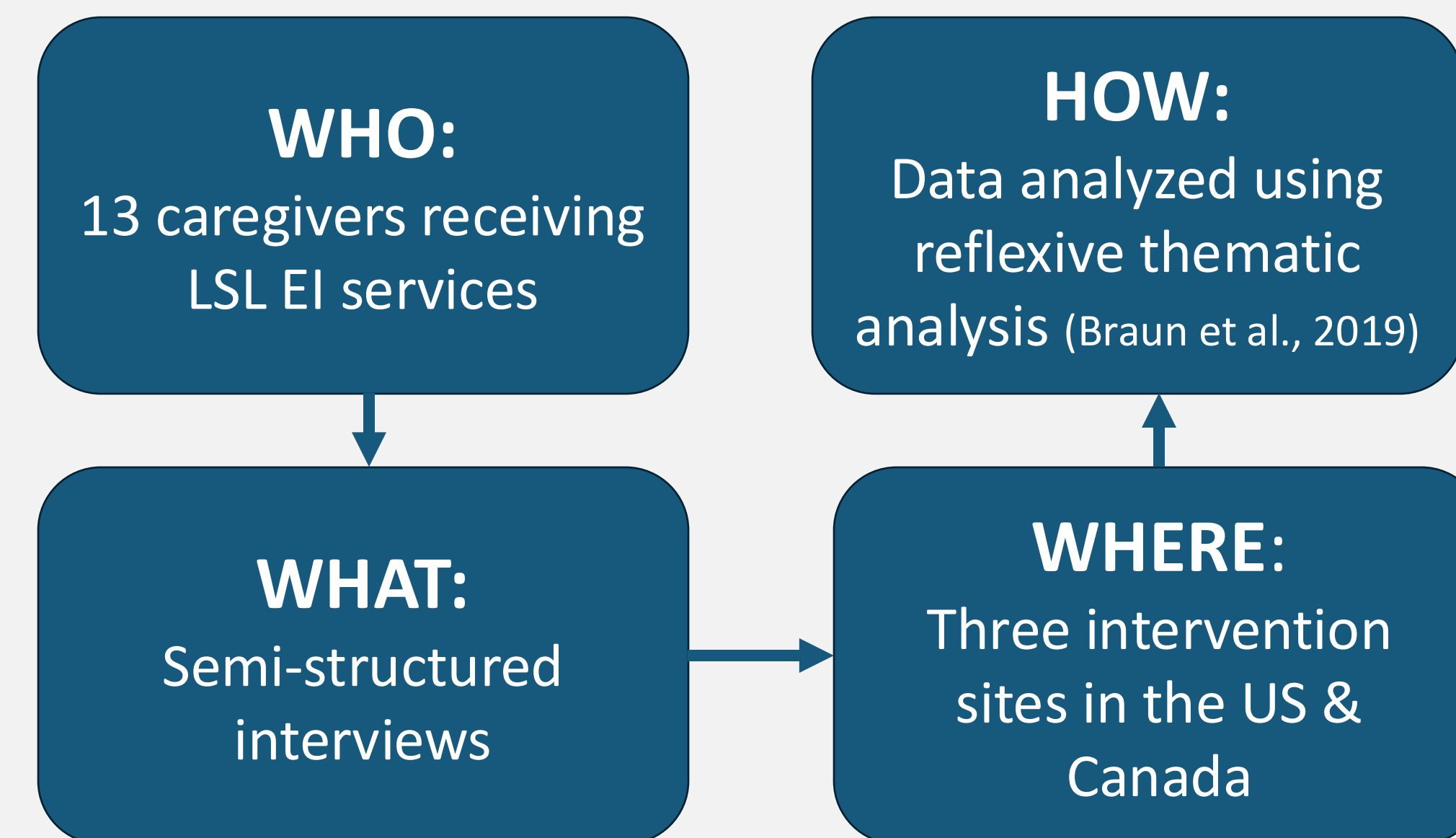
Putting Research into Practice to Better Support and Empower Caregivers in Early Intervention

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Introduction

Caregiver coaching has been a cornerstone of early intervention (EI) services for decades, focusing on enhancing the quality of support for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing (DHH). Despite its importance, limited research exists on how coaching is implemented in EI services for these families. Coaching enables EI providers to build relationships, guide families on their journey, and empower them as advocates for their children. To ensure its effectiveness, it is crucial to understand families' needs and priorities. This presentation highlights findings from interviews with 13 caregivers receiving EI services at three intervention sites across the US and Canada, providing valuable insights into their experiences with caregiver coaching.

Methods



It Takes a Special Kind of Person:

The characteristics important for establishing and maintaining a positive coaching relationship.

Building on Expectations:

Expectations are an important factor in a positive coaching relationship.

Figuring it Out Along the Way:

The relationship evolves and adapting according to the caregivers' needs contributes to a positive coaching relationship.

Results

Caregivers reported coaching as a **positive experience**. They indicated **three factors** that contribute to a positive EI coaching relationship:

1. Practitioner characteristics
2. How expectations are set and maintained
3. Coaching that adapts to changing caregiver needs over time

Lessons Learned

- Demeanor and trust play a role in establishing a positive coaching relationship.
- Clear expectations are important for establishing a partnership.
- Caregivers' needs change over time, and effective coaches adapt.
- Coaching is empowering.

"Expectations have to be clear."

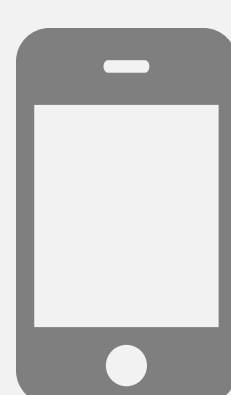
"It's a journey - you figure it out along the way."

Conclusion

Families begin early intervention services during a deeply vulnerable time in their lives. Practitioners must take the time to build trust and set clear expectations early on. Understanding each family's unique needs and priorities is essential for establishing and maintaining a meaningful and effective coaching relationship.

- Caregivers shared three important components that contribute to a positive coaching relationship.
- Practitioners can use this new insight to establish effective caregiver coaching relationships, better support and empower families, and ultimately positively impact child and family outcomes.

Download the full paper here:



These words reflect the caregivers' voices, with the word size indicating how often each was mentioned.