



# APPLYING SPORTS COACHING STANDARDS IN FAMILY-CENTERED EARLY INTERVENTION

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## BACKGROUND

Coaching in early intervention (EI) is essential for improving outcomes in young children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH)(Noll et al., 2021). It not only supports the child's skill development but also empowers families in language acquisition. Despite the benefits, many DHH-EI providers do not fully integrate coaching into their practice (Friedman et al., 2012). While coaching is well-established in sports, with national standards in place (Gano-Overway et al., 2021), research-based standards for DHH-EI coaching are still emerging. By applying key coaching principles from athletics, intervention strategies are enhanced and better support DHH children and their families.

## FAMILY CENTERED EARLY INTERVENTION (FCEI)

Application of coaching techniques fits with characteristics of FCEI:

1. Provider teaches parents
2. Parents teach child
3. Child acquires new set of skills

*Caregiver coaching is expected in  
Early Intervention practices*  
(Stredler-Brown 2017)

## FCEI AND DHH

Although research confirms that family-centered approaches are effective, significant challenges persist in putting these methods into practice (Moeller et al. 2024)

Minimal research found with coaching caregivers of DHH children who use listening and spoken language (LSL) (Noll et al. 2021)

## EARLY INTERVENTION COACHING

Variation across fields. Some coaching is Parent training and some is Parent coaching (Ziegler & Hadders-Algra 2020)

Adult learning strategy in which the coach promotes the learner's (coache's) ability to:  
1) Reflect on his/her actions as a means to determine the effectiveness of an action or practice  
2) Develop a plan for refinement and use of the action in immediate and future situations (Rush & Shelden 2020)

## EI COACHING GOALS

(Ziegler & Hadders-Algra 2020)

1. Empower families to engage actively and equally in the intervention process
2. Make informed decisions

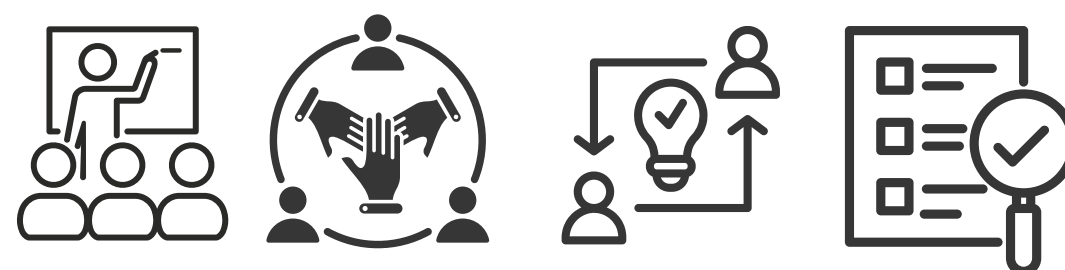
## EI COACHING STRATEGIES

(Rush & Shelden 2020)

JOINT PLANNING  
OBSERVATION  
ACTION  
REFLECTION  
FEEDBACK

## EI COACHING METHODS

(Brock et al. 2023, Roberts et al. 2014, Kaiser & Roberts 2013 )



TEACH-MODEL-COACH-REVIEW

## SPORTS COACHING

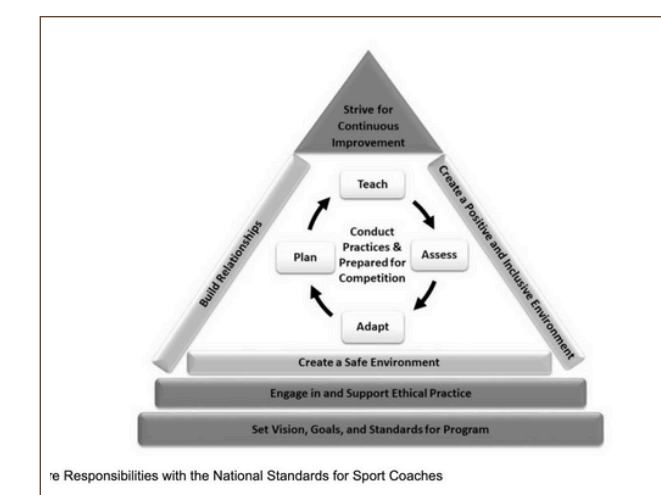
Adapted and implemented across the country, providing a framework for effective coaching practices

## SPORT COACHING STRATEGIES

42 Standards within 9 Categories

Standard 7: Conduct Practices and Prepare for Competition

PLAN  
TEACH  
ASSESS  
ADAPT



(Gano-Overway et al. 2021)

## SPORTS COACHING MODELS

(Kilic & Ince 2023)

### PRODUCTION (INDIRECT)

Progressive thinking  
Can lead to innovative solutions  
Collaborative approach which adapts to the specific needs of the child  
Value on family empowerment  
Parents learn new skills to help their child  
Customized to meet individual needs of child  
Adjusting pace of learning, modifying team role  
Telepractice to make intervention more accessible

### REPRODUCTION (DIRECT)

Standard practices  
Behaviors that are well-established  
Known proven strategies  
Reinforcing traditional family roles and routines  
Supporting parents in their existing understanding  
Involvement in their child's learning

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

By bridging these two fields, we can enhance our understanding and implementation of coaching strategies that support the development of young children who are DHH, ultimately benefiting both the children and their families

