The gap between recommended practice in early intervention and what actually happens during intervention visits persists, despite the many intervention approaches (i.e., natural environments, participation-based intervention, family-guided routines-based intervention) described in the literature (Bruder, 2010; Sawyer & Campbell, 2009). Several reasons have been suggested for this gap, including difficulty in changing practitioners’ beliefs (Sawyer & Campbell, 2009) and a lack of operationalized descriptions of practices that help providers know what to do with different families and in different situations (Bruder, 2010). There has also been a misplaced view that professional standards do not support this approach. Without effective adoption of recommended practices, early intervention visits continue to look clinical in nature, occurring “on the floor” (McBride & Peterson, 1997) with the practitioner providing a child-focused intervention session while the parent observes. In an effort to address this gap, this poster session will focus on helping practitioners consider how to integrate routines-based intervention practices into their current work with children and families.

Even if your practices are on the “family routines” end, do you still find yourself sitting on the living room floor most of the time when supporting families? How do you move from the floor to joining families in other activities?
BEGIN BY FINDING OUT ABOUT FAMILY ROUTINES

- Ask good questions at the intake and early visits
- Gather functional information about everyday life at the assessment
- Develop a meaningful IFSP that is unique to the child’s and family’s interests & routines
- Continue to explore and join routines throughout your interactions with families

GET UP OFF THE FLOOR!
If you want to get up off the floor… think about what your next visit will look like.

Here are some strategies:

Put everything you do in the context of family routines

Go where they go, do what they do, seek out learning opportunities in the child’s and family’s everyday activities!

**ASK:** What would you be doing if I wasn’t here right now? …then do that!

Balance toy play with supporting families in other routines

Think about intervention more broadly and remember your role as a coach and consultant

Plan to target a specific routine on the next visit

Problem-solve & plan together for how the family will use the strategy between visits

**Coach instead of “do” so that the parent can practice using the strategy during the visit by:**

- Using what they have
- Following the child’s/family’s lead
- Asking good questions
- Observing THEN joining in!

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