



headstartinclusion.org

Infants and  
Toddlers

# Embedded Learning Opportunities for Infants and Toddlers





# Objectives

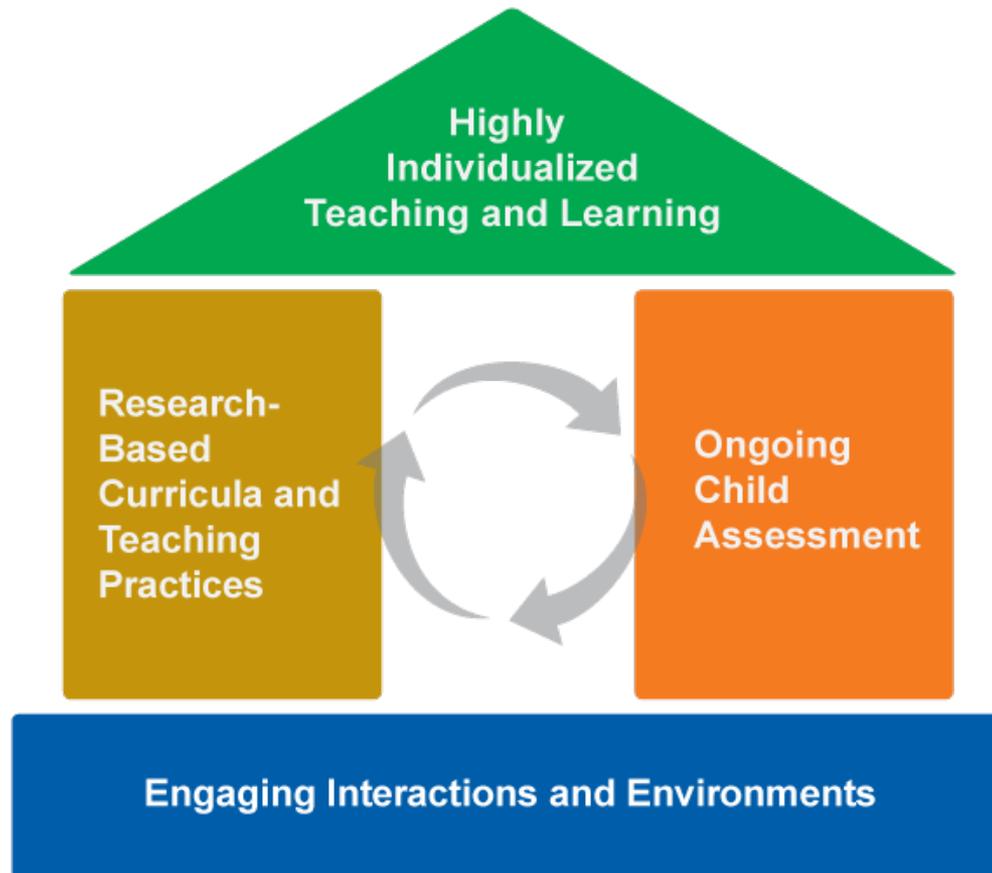
Define embedded learning opportunities (ELOs)

Understand the what, when and how of ELOs

Create and implement plans for ELOs

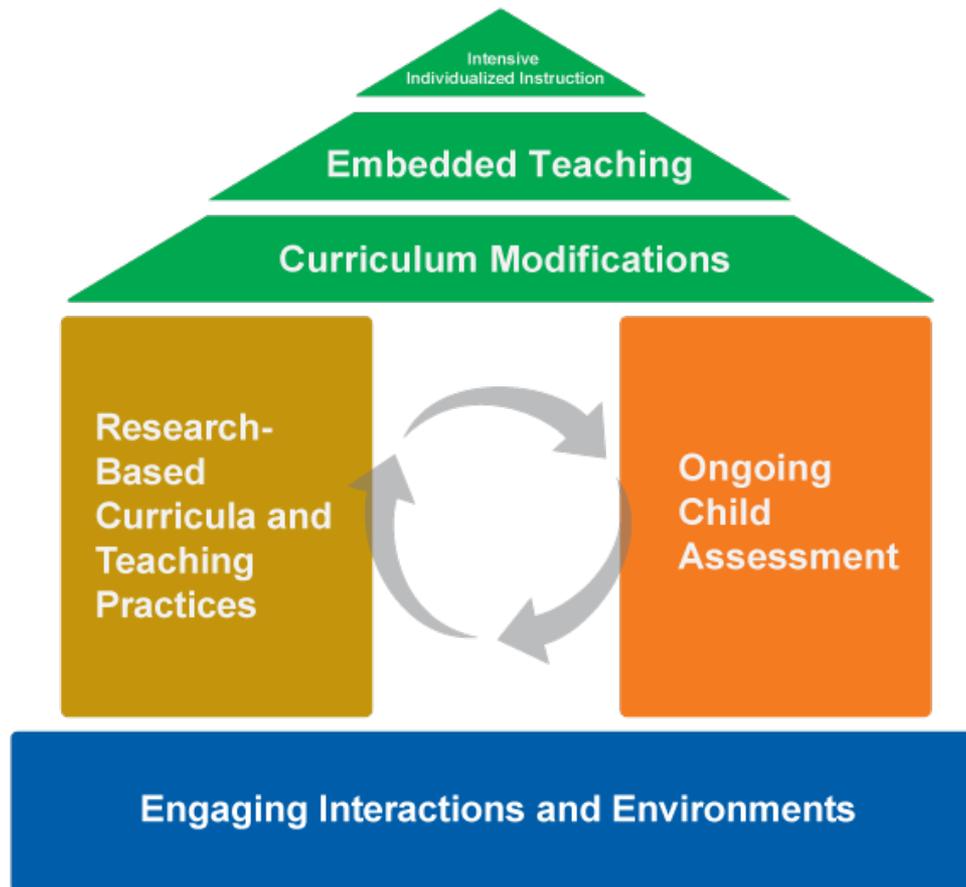


# Framework of Effective Practice



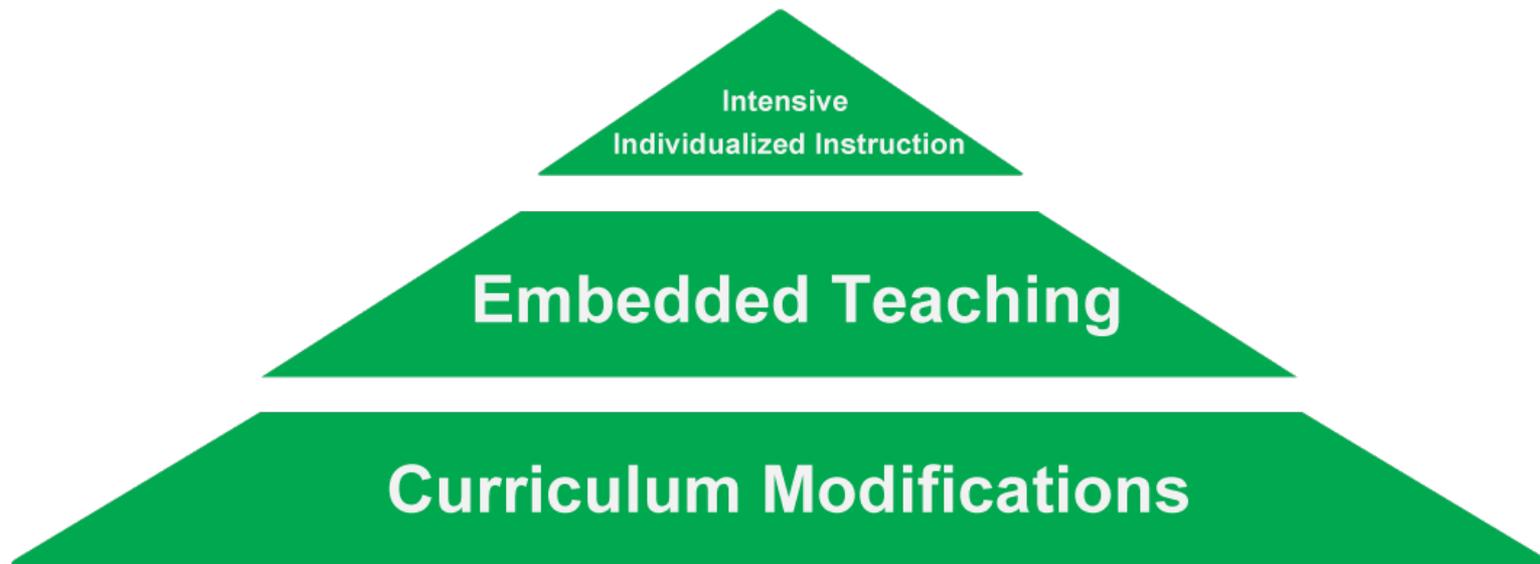


# Framework of Effective Practice





# Framework of Effective Practice





# Case Studies

- PJ – Home-Based Setting
  - 9 months old
- Hani – Family Child Care –
  - 18 months old
- Santino – Child Care Center
  - 2 ½ year old





# Case Studies

- PJ – Home-Based Setting
  - 9 months old
  - Learning Objective: will turn his head when his name is called
- Hani – Family Child Care
  - 18 months old
  - Learning Objective: will bring spoon with textured food to mouth and eat
- Santino – Child Care Center
  - 2 ½ year old
  - Learning Objective: will take turns with peers during play times



# Embedded Learning Opportunities

## Definition

- ✓ Short, planned interactions that provide opportunities for learning priority learning objectives
- ✓ Occur within ongoing activities, routines and transitions

## DEC Recommended Practice

- ✓ INS5: Practitioners embed instruction within and across routines, activities, and environments to provide contextually relevant learning opportunities.



# Benefits of Embedded Learning Opportunities

Take advantage of existing routines and authentic activities

**Maximize motivation by following the child's interests**

Highlight functional skills

Enhance generalization



# Video Example 1





# Video Example 2





# Embedded Learning Opportunities

WHAT



WHY



WHEN





# Embedded Learning Opportunities

What to teach: high-priority individual learning objectives

When to teach: during activities, routines, and transitions

How to teach: complete teaching loops



# What to Teach

- High-priority learning objectives
- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) goals
- Individual Learning Plan objectives
- Family priorities and concerns
- Routines-Based Assessment objectives





# When to Teach

- Activities
- Routines
- Transitions





# How to Teach

- Clarify the learning objective
- **Document child's current performance**
- Design the teaching interaction
  - **Leverage the child's interest**
  - Determine what you will say or do
  - Decide on materials
  - Plan how you will respond
- Keep track of opportunities
- **Document child's learning and progress**



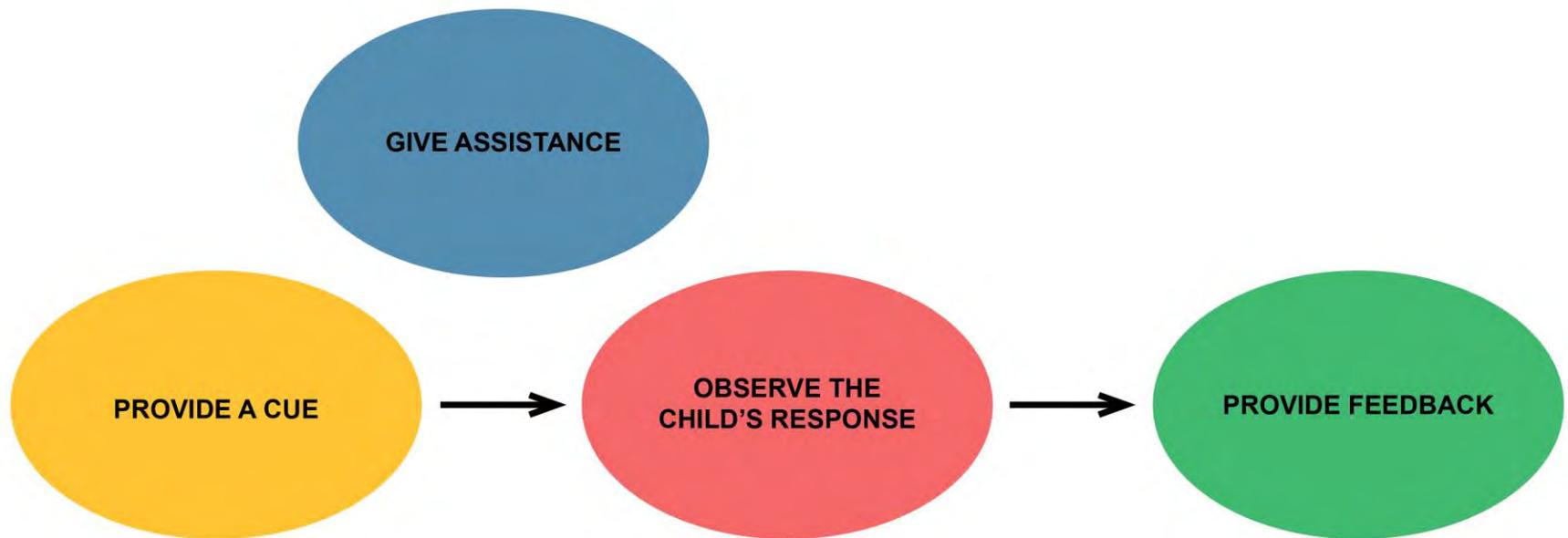


# ELO Graphic





# ELO Graphic





# ELOs-at-a-Glance

**Tools for Educators**  
Embedded Learning Opportunities  
for Infants and Toddlers

## Embedded Learning Opportunities-at-a-Glance

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Learning Objective: \_\_\_\_\_

Routines: \_\_\_\_\_

What are you going to do?

What are you going to say?

How will you respond?

What materials do you need?

How many opportunities will you provide each day?

Notes:



# ELOs and the Activity Matrix

HANI	Bring spoon to mouth and eat	Say 3-5 word approx	Put smaller object in container	Take 2-3 steps
Arrival		"hi", "bye bye"		
Circle		"Hani"		Practice
Exploration		Practice	Practice	
Snack	Practice	"more", "all done"		
Outside				Practice
Lunch	Practice	"more", "all done"		
Nap		"up"		
Snack	Practice	"more", "all done"		
Play		Practice	Practice	Practice
Departure		"da da", "bye bye"		Practice
Diapering		"up"	Practice	



# Case Study: Monitor Progress

	Date	Hani's Objectives		
Morning Feeding	Liquids _____	-Bring spoon with textured food to mouth and eat		
	Solids _____			
Midday Feeding	Liquids _____	-Say 3-5 meaningful word approximations		
	Solids _____			
Midday Feeding	Liquid _____	-Put smaller toy/object in container		
	Solids _____			
Diapering	Time _____	Dry	Wet	Soiled
	Time _____	Dry	Wet	Soiled
	Time _____	Dry	Wet	Soiled
Diapering	Time _____	Dry	Wet	Soiled
	Time _____	Dry	Wet	Soiled



# Review

Define embedded learning opportunities (ELOs)

Understand the what, when and how of ELOs

Learn ways to plan for ELOs



# Thank you!

- Thank you for your time and attention today
- See the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center website for more resources:  
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>



**NATIONAL CENTER ON**  
Early Childhood Development, Teaching and Learning

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