

# Caregiver and Provider Decision-Making When Integrating a Parent-Mediated Intervention within an EI System

## Background

- Parent-mediated interventions (PMIs) are evidence-based approaches to early intervention where caregivers are taught strategies to support their child’s learning.
- More therapists are now using PMIs in public EI systems to support autistic children and their family.
- However, **it is important that PMIs can be delivered in ways that match the needs of families and the delivery models used in EI systems.**
- Very few studies have unpacked how providers and families make decisions to modify PMIs to meet their needs.

## The Purpose of this Study

- 01 To understand how Project ImPACT, a PMI, is delivered within Part C systems
- 02 To show how providers and families made decisions to deliver Project ImPACT
- 03 To learn what parents and providers thought the outcomes were of their decisions

## What They Did (Methods)



Interviewed EI providers and caregivers to **understand perspectives on how to deliver Project ImPACT** in ways that match the program to their needs and their settings.



Questions were based on **scenarios that often come up in early intervention** (shorter therapy sessions, toilet training)

## What They Found (Results)

### How Project ImPACT was Delivered



Project ImPACT is integrated into EI services by making the program longer, repeating Project ImPACT topics, integrating other topics into the program, and sometimes having shorter sessions.

### Shared Decision-Making



When deciding how to deliver Project ImPACT, parents and providers weighed: 1) caregiver’s preference; 2) the length of time a child was in EI services; 3) provider’s scope of practice; and 4) the importance of other goals and family needs.



How Project ImPACT was delivered affected therapeutic alliance and caregiver engagement.

***“My advice would be to engage the family...[therapist] asks my opinion, she respects my opinions, and we came together to do what works best for us and [child]. It actually worked out. We still do the same methods.” -Caregiver***

## Implications and Conclusions

**Matching Programs to their Context** It is essential to match evidence-based programs within the context in which they are being delivered.

Training EI providers could include guidelines for therapists to engage caregivers in decision-making.

**Inclusion of Caregiver Perspectives**

**Training EI Providers in Making Practical Decisions about Delivering Services**

Training could give providers practical decision tools for how to fit Project ImPACT into their delivery model

Information from this project could update training models and inform how changes to the program delivery are measured.

**Provider Training and Delivery Beyond Part C Systems**