



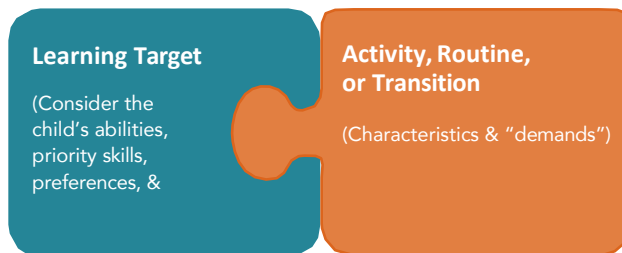
Deciding “When to Teach” Using an Activity Matrix

Embedding Teaching in Everyday Activities, Routines, and Transitions

After a child’s larger goals have been broken down into smaller learning objectives that can be taught immediately, it’s important to decide when, during the day, you and other staff will teach the child these skills.

- Look at your daily schedule. What are the typical activities, routines, and transitions that occur each day?
- What learning opportunities are there across typical activities, routines, and transitions for all children?
- What skills or objectives might you target for a specific child during these activities?
- When is it most natural and logical to teach the learning objectives?

As you think about your scheduled activities, routines, and transitions, consider the most practical times for teaching. Aim to find the best “fit” between the learning objective and the characteristics of the activity, routine, or transition.



For example, if a child has a learning objective to request items from an adult, snack time presents a natural and logical opportunity for them to ask an adult for a favorite food or drink. However, snack time might not be a natural or logical time to embed a learning objective that involves the child pointing to objects in a book.

Using an Activity Matrix

An activity matrix is a tool that helps break down activities, routines, and transitions to identify and plan for times to embed learning opportunities focused on a child’s learning objectives. Consider your activity matrix a working document that you can update as the needs of the children and staff shift. Consider the following points as you design your activity matrix:

- Does the learning objective fit with the activity, routines, or transition? Is it a natural and logical time to teach?
- What time of the day are you most likely to see the behavior occur?
- Is there enough staff available during the activity, routine, or transition to provide instruction?
- How many opportunities throughout the day will the child need to practice?

Note: See the materials that accompany this in-service suite for an activity matrix you can use in your learning environment.