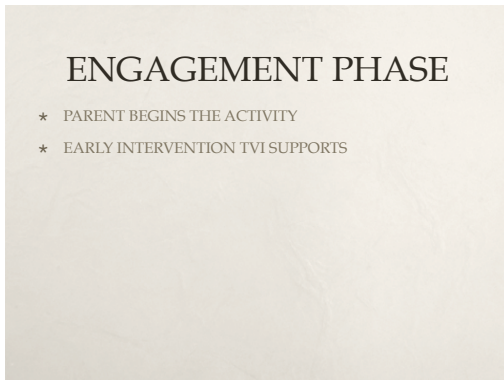


Engagement Phase



In the engagement phase, parents are encouraged to interact with their child using the strategies discussed during planning. First, interventionists invite parents to try the chosen activity with their child. The **interventionist observes the parent for at least 30 seconds** without interfering. This gives the parent a chance to problem-solve through any issues and experience the rewards of success. This also establishes a primary role for the parent in the engagement portion of the session.

Following this period of observation, the **interventionists becomes involved by affirming the parent and highlighting behaviors and skills** that the child is displaying. The interventionist also provides developmental information and may suggest or model alternate strategies for the parent to try. During engagement, the interventionists should continue to **encourage the parent to take a primary role** in engaging the child and practicing the activity.

This engagement phase is meant to

- **train parents in problem-solving skills,**
- **build parent competence,**
- **promote parent follow through,**
- **support the parent-child relationship, and**
- **support parents in learning specialized skills.**

