
Nebraska IDEA Part C Results Driven Accountability

Quality Home Visitation Practices Evaluation February 2016

Executive Summary

The Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human services have developed a State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to improve State Identified Measurable Results (SIMRs) related to increasing the number and percentage of infants and toddlers enrolled in Part C (early intervention) services who demonstrate progress in the acquisition and use of knowledge and skills. In order to impact these results, Nebraska has identified three improvement strategies: (1) Implementation of the Routines-Based Interview (RBI) as the recommended child and family assessment process; (2) Development of meaningful and measurable child and family outcomes using information obtained from the RBI; and (3) Implementation of quality routines-based home visits. The implementation of the RBI and the development of meaningful and measurable child and family outcome strategies are being actively promoted across the state via training and technical assistance.

In order to identify the remaining statewide training needs related to quality home visits, a sample of home visits was reviewed to explore the current status of home visitation practices. Three groups with varying levels of RBI training submitted videotaped home visits for review: (1) providers with two to three years of experience with RBI and functional outcomes (2) providers recently trained in RBI and functional outcome practices and (3) providers with no RBI or functional outcomes training.

Quality Home Visit Practices

Quality evidenced based home visitation practices promote child development by (1) strengthening parenting confidence and competence (Klass, 2010) and (2) facilitating developmentally supportive parent-child interactions (Roggman, et al., 2012).

Key home visit practices include:

- Home visitor **relationship** with family and **responsiveness** to family
- Parent and child **engagement** during home visits
- Home visitor **collaboration** with the family
- **Facilitation** of parent-child interactions



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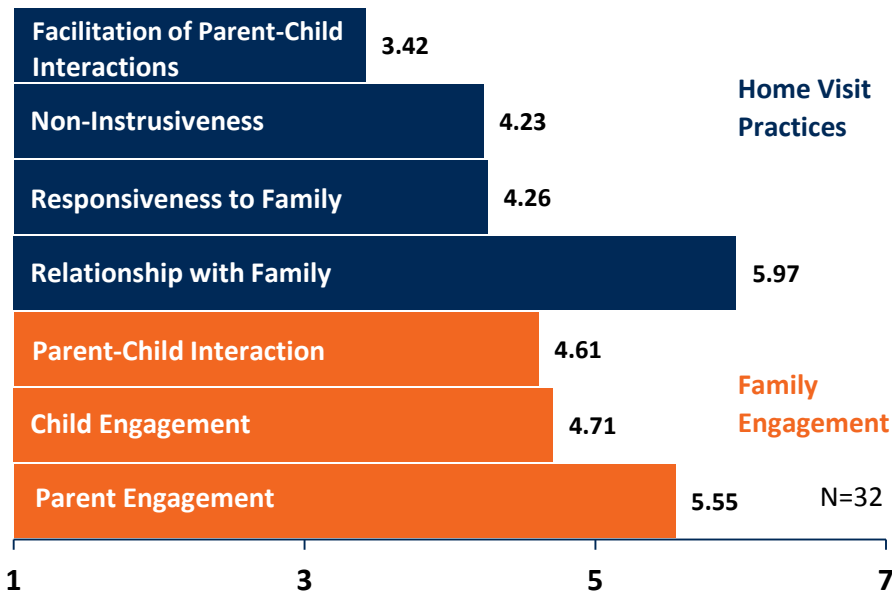


The *Home Visit Rating Scales-Adaptive and Extended (HOVRS-A+ v.2.1)* assesses the quality of home visitation practices based on a video of a home visit. The observational measure is scored on a 7 point scale, with **7** indicating **high quality**. The HOVRS-A+ v.2.1 results are reported in two domains. The first domain, **Home Visit Practices**, measures the home visitor’s responsiveness to the family and how the visitor facilitates parent-child interaction, builds relationships with the family, and uses non-intrusive approaches. The second domain, **Family Engagement**, measures parent-child interaction and the level of parent and child engagement within the activities of the home visit.

What was the quality of home visit practices?

Home Visitors have built strong relationships with their families.

Parents were engaged during home visits.



Implementation of the RBI in and of itself was not enough to significantly influence home visit practices.

To explore the relationships between implementation of the RBI and writing functional outcomes, and implementation of quality home visit practices, EI providers were assigned to three groups: 1) EI providers who have used the RBI for 2-3 years; 2) EI providers recently trained on the RBI; and 3) EI providers who have not been trained on the RBI. Comparisons between the quality of home visit practices for each group found no significant differences.

Summary

A quality benchmark was used to measure the percentage of providers meeting or exceeding quality practices on the HOVRS. The subscales which should be targeted are those which did not reach a level 5. Future considerations for quality home visit implementation training and technical assistance include supporting early intervention providers in:

- Actively engaging both the parent and child in daily routines and activities during home visits
- Promoting positive parent-child interactions during home visits
- Collaborating with parents to support their child’s development in daily routines and activities outside of home visits

The full report can be found at: <http://edn.ne.gov/cms/sites/default/files/pdf/Quality%20home%20visitation%20report%204.22.16.pdf>

