**PDI (Parent-Directed Interaction) Teach & Engage**

**Caregiver Only Session**

**Goals:**

1) Establish parent buy-in to:

A) Follow PDI protocol

B) Gradual roll-out of PDI procedure

C) Follow therapist’s lead during 1st PDI session

2) Address caregiver concerns about discipline

**Activities:**

**Give an overview of the structure of PDI**

Explain how their child will learn to follow directions by breaking it down into small steps with clear and immediate consequences for compliance and noncompliance.

Explain once their child has mastered easier levels of PDI such as complying with small commands during the session, they will progress to more difficult levels. The most difficult levels of compliance involve following directions in public and when siblings are present so these will be addressed after the child has mastered complying at the easier levels.

**Review PDI skills** – **effective commands and time-out procedure**

**Review effective commands** (*see effective commands handout*)

Explain that PDI begins with the caregiver giving an effective command. These are the types of commands that increase the probability of the child complying.

**Review time-out procedure**

*Review time-out procedure for children who comply for stay on the chair*

*Review time-out procedure for children who get off the chair*

Review how the caregiver should safely and gently transport the child to the time-out chair (picking the child up under the arms from behind).

Review the importance of the caregiver remaining quiet except for scripted responses for noncompliance until the child has complied with the command.

**Address caregiver concerns about the procedure**

Use your knowledge of the caregiver and child to anticipate potential problems. Examples of questions I ask:

1) Why does this PDI procedure have you put your child in time-out for not following a relatively unimportant command such as handing you a block?

2) What will be the hardest thing for you to hear your child say while in the time-out chair?

3) PDI can be upsetting for caregivers and children. Is there anything I can say that will help you with following the procedure. (I tell the caregiver there will be play materials they can use while their child is in time-out such as colors/paper and sewing cards).

**Role-play PDI skills**

Role-play the PDI skills with the parent so they can get more comfortable with the skills and have a chance to ask questions about the procedure.

**Emphasize importance of caregiver not trying PDI at home until you have been able to coach them in the procedure at the next session.**

**Discuss whether you or the caregiver will explain PDI to the child.**

**Give an overview of the structure of the 1st PDI session**

1) PDI will be explained to the child.

2) Caregiver and child will do 3 to 5 minutes of CDI.

3) You will direct the caregiver in giving the command and coaching them through the follow through after the command.