

Home Visiting Practices Explained

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A researcher at Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities presented a poster on home visiting practices in early intervention at a recent Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) annual meeting in Washington, DC.

The poster presented by Mark Innocenti, director of the CPD's Research and Evaluation Division, examined elements of successful home visits and what kinds of home visits have the most impact in early intervention.

The Home Visits Ratings Scale (HOVRS) was developed by Innocenti and his team, including Lori Roggman, Gina Cook, Vonda Jump, Katie Christiansen and Lisa Boyce. HOVRS is a reliable observational measure that predicts parent and child outcomes. It was developed by asking home visitors and their supervisors what a good home visit looked like, what should happen when it works well, and what does it look like when it's not working. From that information, the team developed the scale.

The scale measures the home visitor's relationship with the family, non-intrusiveness, responsiveness, facilitation of interaction, and the engagement of the parent and child together.