



Coaching Companion™

The Coaching Companion™, a video sharing and coaching feedback application, offers current and prospective teachers the opportunity to observe effective teaching practices in action, and video record, reflect upon, and refine their own practice.

How it Works

The Coaching Companion's web-based platform allows for individualized and collaborative coaching to improve teaching practices and, in turn, child outcomes. Coaching Companion users video record themselves working with children and then upload their videos to the Coaching Companion where teachers, students, instructors, and coaches view the videos, reflect on the teaching practices, and provide feedback.

The Coaching Companion's foundation is the Practice-Based Coaching model which promotes a collaborative partnership as a condition for meaningful coaching. Shared goals and action plans, related to specific teaching practices, are established followed by focused observations. Meaningful feedback and reflection lead to the enhanced use of effective teaching practices and allow for an ongoing cycle of refinement and improvement.

The EarlyEdU Alliance supports three versions of the Coaching Companion. Each version supports a particular audience.

EarlyEdU	College faculty, instructors, and students
Custom	State agencies, coaches, and teachers
Head Start	Head Start, Early Head Start, childcare providers, coaches, and teachers

Features in All Versions

- ✓ Students and classroom teachers video record themselves working with children and then upload their videos to the Coaching Companion where students and teachers view the videos, reflect on the teaching practices, and provide feedback.
- ✓ Course instructors and coaches view the videos and provide targeted feedback related to assignments or established professional development goals.
- ✓ Course instructors and coaches refine their coaching and feedback skills.
- ✓ Students and teachers become reliable observers of teaching practices.

Coaching Companion Version	Description	Features
EarlyEdU	<p>The EarlyEdU version of the Coaching Companion, developed specifically for college students and their instructors, is used in EarlyEdU college courses to support competency-based assignments in which students demonstrate their use of effective teaching practices. In using the Coaching Companion, the college instructor becomes a coach who gives specific feedback on students' use of selected practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Course instructors create competency-based assignments and rubrics that students use to guide their video recordings and subsequent reflection on teaching practices. ✔ Course instructors actively engage their students as they model, and students practice, how to give meaningful feedback. ✔ Course instructors can create online Communities of Reflection and Practice (CORPs) where students, in small peer learning groups, observe, comment, and engage in dialogue related to teaching. ✔ Course instructors comment on students' video using the Play-by-Play program that allows all users to annotate the video exactly where specific practices are observed, creating a time-coded list for easy review.
Custom	<p>The Custom Coaching Companion was developed for states and agencies to provide ongoing support and professional development for their teachers and coaches. The Coaching Companion provides a systematic framework that enables states and agencies to organize their coaching initiatives and ensure a focus on improvement of teaching practices and accountability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Teachers and coaches move through the Practice-Based coaching cycle of shared goals and action planning, focused observation, and quality feedback and reflection. ✔ Coaches and teachers can access digital professional development resources such as video examples, handouts, and articles. ✔ Program applications can be customized to meet individual state professional development needs.
Head Start	<p>The Head Start Coaching Companion, while similar to the Custom version, was developed for Head Start and Early Head Start programs to provide ongoing support for their teachers and coaches. The Coaching Companion provides a systematic framework that enables Head Start and Early Head Start programs to organize their coaching initiatives and ensure a focus on improvement of teaching practices and accountability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Teachers and coaches move through a cycle of shared goals and action planning, focused observation, and quality feedback and reflection. ✔ Coaches and teachers can access digital professional development resources, including resources designed specifically for the Head Start audience. ✔ Coaching Companion is available through Head Start's Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center (ECLKC).

Coaching Companion Material Requirements

The Coaching Companion requires participants' access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone with video capability; and reliable internet access. The Coaching Companion is secure and FERPA compliant.

For more information, contact info@earlyedualliance.org.

