Family-guided Approaches to Collaborative Early-intervention Training and Services

Teaming Strategies for Educators and Parents

**EDUCATORS:**

- Recognize parents as valued partners in education.
- Include parents from the beginning.
- Identify what supports parents may need in order to participate.
- Furnish reports/information in advance.
- Provide an agenda, ask for additions from parents.
- Include parents in prioritizing the agenda.
- Allow parents sufficient time to address issues/ask questions.
- Furnish parents with copies of minutes.
- Be respectful of confidentiality.
- Include parents in the decision making process.
- Minimize professional jargon.
- If people look confused, take the time to explain.
- Recognize the expertise parents have, not only regarding their child but also their expertise from their personal and professional lives.
- Thank parents for their participation.

**PARENTS:**

- Identify barriers to your participation and offer solutions.
- Be an active participant.
- Recognize the expertise and commitment and offer solutions.
- In general team meetings, limit personal issues.
- Respect confidentiality.
- Ask questions if you need more information.
- Focus on the positive.
- Educate yourself on the process.
- Thank team members for their effort on your child’s behalf.

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