

## Principles of Trusting Partnerships

Developed by Rud and Ann Turnbull

**Communication** involves the verbal, nonverbal, and written messages that partners exchange with each other.

- Being friendly
- Being clear
- Highlighting strengths and good news
- Being honest, even with bad news
- Responding to feelings
- Listening

**Competence** refers to the one's own capacity to make and implement wise decisions.

- Knowing and implementing evidence-based practices
- Setting high expectations and working hard to meet them
- Continuing to learn when faced with new challenges

**Respect** occurs when each partner regards the other with esteem and communicates esteem through words and actions

- Honoring cultural diversity
- Building on strengths
- Valuing each other's perspectives and recommendations
- Seeking to "walk a mile in the others' shoes"

**Commitment** occurs when partners are loyal to each other and consider their tasks to be "more than an obligation."

- Being available for communication
- Being flexible, including using innovative ways to solve challenges
- Being sensitive to emotional needs
- Going above and beyond

**Equality** occurs when partners have equal opportunity to consider, make, and implement decisions.

- Fostering each other's confidence
- Seeking each other's input
- Creating conditions that lead to a level playing field

**Advocacy** involves partners speaking out and acting together in order to solve a problem

- Expressing viewpoints
- Thinking creatively "outside of the box"
- Working toward win-win solutions
- Speaking up for children, families, practitioners, and system leaders