

Sharing What You Know with Professionals

Working with practitioners provides you with many opportunities to share information and ideas about your child's likes, interests, and challenges. You know your child best and can describe the many things you have done to help your child learn and grow. You can explain what you would like help with now. You also have knowledge and life experiences that other team members will likely not have. You have much to contribute to help other team members learn about your child and family. This practice guide includes ideas and strategies that will help you share information with team members.

[Watch a video of this guide](#)

Sharing Information with Other Team Members

- Sharing information about your child's likes, dislikes, and interests will help other team members learn about your child and what might work best to support his learning. It will help them adjust ideas and activities to better fit your child. Sharing information can happen during every meeting and not just during the assessment process.
- Share information about what happens with your child on a typical day, the kinds of activities your family likes to do, and things you would like your child to be able to do. This information, along with information about your lifestyle and culture, can help team members develop interventions that can become part of your child's and family's daily routines and activities.
- Trying out ideas and activities team members have suggested based on your input helps other members learn about the kinds of support that will be most helpful to you and your child. When you and another team member are face-to-face or trying out a new idea, you will be able to see if that particular strategy works for you and your child.
- Being open to trying new ideas that other team members suggest will give you the opportunity to provide feedback about what ideas work best for you.

A Quick Peek

On a home visit, the teacher and physical therapist (PT) are with Celina and her 20-month-old outside in the front yard. Celina is seven months pregnant and having a difficult time carrying Alejandro up the steps to their front door. They have been working for several months on independent walking in the house and in the yard which Alejandro is now doing well. The PT and teacher make several suggestions that they try with Celina on the first five steps. Patting her expanding belly, Celina reminds them that she cannot bend over to assist him as they can. They next try to see if he can steady himself by holding onto the railing, but it's too far over his head. Celina's dad has carpentry skills, so she asks the team members to help her figure out how high the railing should be and what it should look like. Then she calls her dad who lives only a few blocks away. When he comes over, the PT explains what the team thinks will help, and Alejandro's grandpa says he can have it done easily in a few days. A follow-up visit is scheduled for Monday, so they can help Alejandro use the new railing together.



You'll know the practice is working when...

- You have opportunities to provide information about your child and family during ALL interactions with other team members
- Activities and interventions are customized to fit your child and family's life and preferences
- You learn useful things from other team members and feel that they also learn from you

This practice guide is based upon the following *DEC Recommended Practices*: Teaming & Collaboration 1, 2, 3, 4
 The DEC Recommended Practices are available at <http://dec-sped.org/recommendedpractices>

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