Sharing What You Know

Working with practitioners provides you many opportunities to share information and ideas about your child’s likes and interests. You know best about your family and the many things you have done to help your child learn and grow and what you would like help with now. You also have knowledge and life experiences that other team members may not have. You have a lot 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.

Learning Guide: Sharing What You Know with Other Team Members

- Sharing information about your child such as the things he/she likes to do, is interested in, and does not like will help other team members adjust ideas and activities to better fit your child. This will help team members know all about your child so they can learn what might work best. This happens at all times and not just during your child’s assessment process.
- Getting to know your family is also important for the other team members to better know your preferences. You can help by explaining what your family does during a typical day, what you like to do, the activities you wish you could do, things you and other family members enjoy doing, and any other life experiences that are important for the other members to know about your family.
- Trying out ideas and activities team members have suggested based on your input helps other members learn about the kinds of support that will help you and your child. When you and another team member are face-to-face, trying out an idea, these opportunities help both of you make that learning real and practical.
- Keeping an open mind to the many difficult things team members may suggest to help your child and family will allow you to provide open and honest feedback about which ideas will work best for you.

A Quick Peek

On a home visit, the teacher and physical therapist are with Celina and her 20-month-old outside in the front yard. Celina is 7 months pregnant and having a difficult time carrying Alejandro up the front steps. 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 out with Celina on the first five steps. Celina reminds them that she cannot bend over to assist him as they can, patting her expanding belly. They next try to see if he can steady himself by holding on the railing but it’s too far over his head. Celina shares that her Dad has carpentry skills and if the team members can help her figure out how high a railing should be and what type she is sure he can do it. Celia calls her dad who lives a few blocks away. When he comes over the PT explains what she thinks will help and Papa says it is no problem and he can have it done in a few days! A follow-up visit is scheduled for Monday so they can all try it out.

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

- 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 they learn from you, too.

Find more information and activities online about your role as part of your child’s early intervention team:

- Parent-Professional Partnerships in Early Intervention
- Early Intervention: Advice for Families and Caregivers

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