



IES Grant
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Nurturing Positive Family and Professional Partnerships



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Family-Professional partnerships are critical to young children's success. Nurturing positive relationships between families and professionals is essential to providing children with the responsive environment they need to succeed.

FAMILIES ARE ESSENTIAL TEAM MEMBERS



You know your child better than anyone else - sharing your perspective and experiences is essential!

You are an equal collaborator in making decisions about your child's behavior supports.

Collaboration allows for the development of consistent goals across settings to help your child succeed.

You are your child's strongest advocate in making sure they get the support they need.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

Families and professionals should feel comfortable asking questions and providing information about the child to make sure the child is receiving the support they need.

You can talk about:

- How to prevent challenging behavior
- How to respond to challenging behavior
- How to use a visual support (ex: a visual schedule or timer)
- What behavior looks like in different settings (ex: home, school, clinic)
- How each person can be involved in planning and decision-making
- Resources families can use at home
- What supports are working or not working
- What skills the child might need work on

Most importantly, talk about the child's successes to celebrate all the work each of you (and the child!) have put in.

TIPS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Being involved will look different with each family. Some helpful tips are:

- **Have meetings to talk about how things are going for the child**
 - **Use this time to talk about what is working and what isn't so you can make changes you are both comfortable with**
- **Talk about the child's accomplishments**
- **Share data with the family and ask about any data they have collected**
- **Ask the family how they prefer to be contacted**
- **Share new resources with the family**
- **Check-in with the family about how they are doing**
- **Be responsive and patient when communicating. You are both doing the best you can.**

Remember you both want to help the child by providing the support they need.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Being involved will look different for each family. Some helpful tips are:

- **Have meetings to talk about how things are going for your family**
 - **Use this time to talk about what is working and what isn't so you can make changes you are both comfortable with**
- **Talk about your child's accomplishments together**
- **Take simple data at home that you can share with the professional**
- **Let the professional know what method of communication works best for you (ex: email, phone call)**
- **Be responsive and patient when communicating. You are both doing the best you can.**

For more information on how to support social emotional development, visit

<https://cainclusion.org/teachingpyramid/materials/family/>