



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 your child's social emotional development, [click here.](#)**