



# Strategies for building and maintaining a positive relationship with your IFSP or IEP Team

- ◆ Introduce yourself to the staff as soon as you know your child will be transitioning to a new group of professionals.
- ◆ Be knowledgeable about the IEP process and your child's strengths, challenges and learning needs
- ◆ Recognize how hard school staff work to make sure *all* children (including *your* child) receive good services. Give teachers/aides "thank you's" and express gratitude as appropriate
- ◆ Remember - you are the expert on your child! Share information about: what works and what doesn't, how your child communicates, interacts, and learns, favorite activities, favorite rewards
- ◆ Be open to new strategies to help your child
- ◆ Keep positive and creative: focus on what you want your child to learn, how they learn best, and each small step of progress rather than problems and frustrations
- ◆ Establish a simple school-to-home communication system that identifies your child's successes each day
- ◆ Open a dialogue with school staff if you are uncomfortable with some aspect of your child's education earlier rather than later. It is usually best to initiate contact with your child's teacher
- ◆ CONSISTENCY and open communication between home and school/ center is key to progress and "generalization" of skills!

## Keep the following in mind:

- No one specific approach or type of service (e.g. ABA, RDI, Floor Time, etc.) has been found to be effective for all children with ASD
- Greater amounts of specialized 1:1 intervention will not necessarily help your child make faster progress
- Be open to the services offered by your school district or Regional Center – do not simply assume they are inadequate!!
- Independent evaluations or assessments may not necessarily be better or more "objective"
- Many professionals claiming "autism expertise" may have very limited knowledge and skills and may not necessarily know what is best for your child
- You will have a greater impact on your child's development than any professional who spends a few hours a week working with your child

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