

Family Centered Practice

Where are We?
Where are We Going?

Early Childhood Inclusion
Applying the Lessons Learned

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Workshop at a glance...

- Introductions/ Expectations
- Finding a common language/ defining FCP
- Where are we now?
 - Family–Oriented Program Parameters
- Where are we going?
 - Moving toward AAA Model of FCP
- Family Centered Practice in Family Programming
- Summary and Recommendations for FMCSD

Family Centered Practice

(King, Law, Kertoy, Rosenbaum, Hurley, 2002)

- A philosophy of providing services to families
- Valuing parents as the expert of their child, holding a pivotal role in education
- Promotes partnership between parent and educator
- Supports family decision making

Family Centered Practice...

Family Centered Practice is
a process that links
behaviors of professionals with
outcomes for families

(Outcomes= positive traits/ strengths)

Group Activity

- Identify the strengths and skills you would like to see all families exhibit, by the time they leave your program and transition into school.

- Identify the challenges that staff may experience as they support families develop the strengths and skills to be prepared to transition to school

Everything we “do”
either
enhances or diminishes
family strengthening
and capacity building

Definition of Need

- An individual's judgment of the discrepancy between an actual state or condition and what is considered "normative"
- *The perception of need is from the help seeker's perspective (family/ child), not the help giver's (teacher/ professional)*

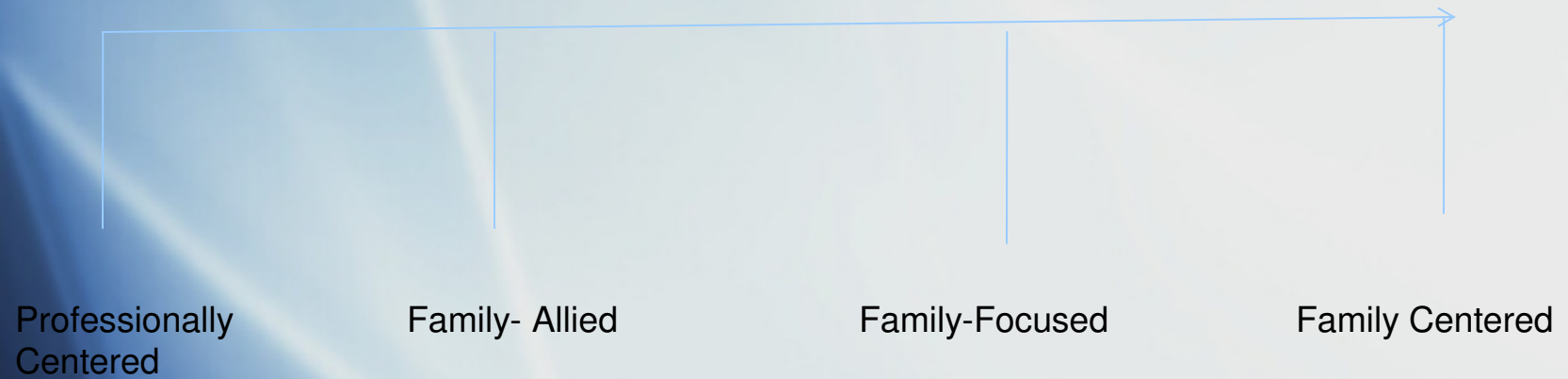
Family-Oriented Program Paradigms

(Dunst, Trivette, Snyder)

1. Professional Centered
2. Family Allied
3. Family Focused
4. Family Centered

Based on professional assumptions regarding families capabilities and roles of help-giving professionals


Program Paradigms



Four Paradigms

Paradigm	Definition
Professional -Centered	<p>Characterized by professionals who determine the needs of families from their own perspectives, as opposed to families' perspectives.</p> <p>Interventions are implemented by professionals because families are seen as incapable of "solving their own problems"</p>
Family – Allied	<p>Characterized by families as agents of professionals. Families enlisted to carry out recommendations /interventions deem necessary by professionals, for the benefit of the child/family</p>

Paradigm	Definition
Family- Focused	<p>Characterized by families needing primarily professional services, advice, and assistance.</p> <p>Families encouraged to use professional networks, or menus, of services available to meet their needs</p>
Family Centered	<p>Characterized by consumer driven intervention practices. Families needs and desires determine all aspects of service delivery and resource provision.</p> <p>Professionals are seen as agents and instruments of families and intervene in ways that maximally promote family decision-making, capabilities, and competencies</p>



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Program, Edmonton Sept/ 2007

Common Language

- Empowerment
- Capacity building
- Asset-based, strength-based
 - Participatory
 - Collaborative

Myths

Common General Myths

- Family-centered service is a fad
- Programs/ services are already family-centered
- Problems with FCP are too big to be solved

Specific Myths

- Families always get what they want
- Families must be responsible for doing things they would rather have service providers do.

AAA Model towards FCP

- Adoption of Principles
- Application of Principles
- Adherence to Principles

(Dunst, 2004)

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Adoption of Principles

Actions taken to select and determine how principles will guide program practices

- Statements of beliefs about how supports and resources ought to be made available to parents/ family members
- Value statements that describe how staff will interact with and treat families

(Dunst, 1995)

- *“Families are big, small, extended, nuclear, multigenerational, with one parent, two or more parents, and grandparentswe live under one roof or many....We become a part of a family by birth, adoption, marriage, or from a desire for mutual support....A family is a culture unto itself, with different values and unique ways of realizing dreams”.*

*The Report on the House memorial 5
Task Force on Young Children and Families , 1990)*

Principles as beliefs and value statements

Examples: (Family, Infant, and Preschool Program)

- 1. Families are treated with dignity and respect **at all times.**
- 2. Staff are sensitive and responsive to family, cultural, ethnic and socio-economic diversity.

Guiding principles, con't

- 3. Family choice occurs at **all levels** of participation.
- 4. Families make *informed decisions*, based on information shared in a sensitive, complete, and **unbiased** manner.
- 5. Staff build on **strengths**, assets, and interests of child and family as the primary way of strengthening family functioning

Challenges and Potential Solutions...

AAA

Adoption of Principles

AAA: Application of Principles

Interpretation / action of adopted principles:

- 1. Relational Practices
- 2. Participatory Practices

1. Relational Helpgiving Practices:

- Behaviors associated with “effective helpgiving”...
i.e. compassion, active listening, empathy
- Staff beliefs about family strengths and abilities
i.e. relationship strengthening behaviors:
mutual trust, collaboration

***Relationships create
trust that leads to
increase participation.*

2. Participatory Helpgiving:

- ✓ Behaviors essential to shared decision-making and family choice
- ✓ Experiences to meaningfully involve families in actively obtaining resources, supports, or desired life goals.
- ✓ Building on current assets of family and providing opportunities for new learning.

***Participatory helpgiving exerts
twice the influence on
family capacity building
than relational helpgiving.*

(Dunst & Trivette)

“Family– Centeredness”

- When “it” works, what are the underlying elements that led to our success?
- When “it” is too difficult, what are the limitations/ barriers we experience?

Challenges and Potential Solutions...

AAA

Adoption of Principles

Application:
Relational and
Participatory Practices

AAA: Adherence to Principles

- The extent to which program participants judge their experience as being consistent with guiding principles (Dunst, 2004)
- Measuring our effectiveness. Are we walking the talk? (checklists or tools to ask the tough questions)

Reflective Practice...

- What does FCP mean to me, my program, my school?
- What are the things I agree with or disagree with within this presentation or articles?
- Why do I think the way I do?

Reflective practice, con't

- Who are the people I can trust to discuss my views openly?
- How do my beliefs impact solutions in complex family situations?
- Who are my mentors in this area? (Critical friends)
- Talk to others about the beliefs they hold.

Amazing Resources

- www.researchtopractice.info
 - Research studies translated for service providers and families
 - ▶ www.fipp.org/casetools.php
 - Instruments and scales to evaluate outcomes
 - ▶ www.canchild.ca
 - MPOC – Measure of Process of Care
 - Articles for families, service providers and policy/decision makers
 - ▶ www.speciallinkcanada.org **
 - ▶ www.earlyinterventioncanada.com

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Short overview...

- Development of trusting relationships with family members begins first and takes time to establish.
- Process: Professional involvement enhances or diminishes family strengthening and capacity.
- Responsiveness and flexibility to family requests and desires (action beyond active listening).
- Honor parent choice, respecting knowledge of families or child strengths and needs.
- Active parent participation strongest influence of family capacity building.