

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Family-Centered Practices: Promoting Equitable Services

NASEM Panel – June 13, 2022





Family-Centered Practices

Family-centered practices treat families with dignity and respect; provide family members with information needed to make informed decisions and choices; actively involve families in obtaining resources and supports; and practitioner responsiveness and flexibility to family requests and desires.

Dunst et al. 2011



Family-Centered Practices

Family is the center of the services provided for the child.

Services and supports are derived through collaboration with and centering families as experts.



Services vary for each family based on differences and needs within family systems.

Family centered practices are designed to meet the strengths and needs of both the child and the family.





Hours of Service

**Child only
intervention**

1 hour
a week

~ 4 hours a
month

~ 48 hours a year





Hours of Service

Child only intervention



V.S.

Family-centered Practices





Why Family-Centered?

1


Increases
opportunity for
children to learn
skills throughout
daily routines

2

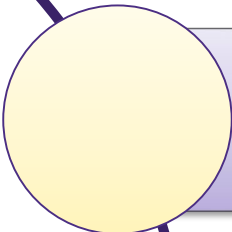
Support parent
competence and
promote parent-
child relationship

3

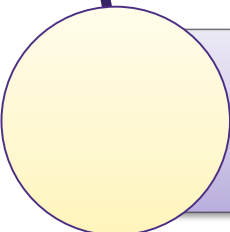
Improves family
and child outcomes



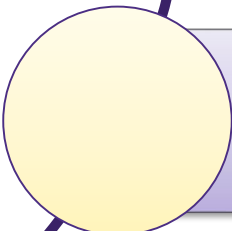
What did we learn during the COVID-19 Pandemic?



“I am not a teacher. I am not trained to be a teacher and specifically not trained to teach someone who has a disability and has different needs.”



“[Our practitioner] is very dependent on me. If I forget something, [my child] is missing a lot of key pieces. That's where I feel like it's just a huge downfall. I don't know what to look for.”



“I know obviously, everybody's gone to school for their credential, they have the licenses and the training but it is a level of skill that as another educated person I can't do. It is not my skill set”.



Recommendations

Promote and support policies that orient services on family-centered care.

Policy



Advocate for funding for family-centered service delivery AND understand evidence-based practices that promote FCP.

Funding



Require pre-service and in-service trainings on family-centered practices.

Training

