PARENT/CAREGIVER PARTICIPATION IN THERAPY

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

INTRODUCTIONS

- Maria Jones, PT, PhD
  mjones1@okcu.edu
- Cynthia Barger-Fenton, MA, CCC-SLP
  cbfosis2@gmail.com
- Tai Allen, OTR/L
  taimtorbett@yahoo.com

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the importance of parent participation in therapy
- Illustrate strategies used to foster parent participation
- Reflect on current practices and devise a plan for improving parent participation
PARENT PARTICIPATION
WHAT IS IT?

PARENT PARTICIPATION – WHY IMPORTANT?
- Honor the parent/family expertise
- Parents/families are central to the child’s life
- Parents/families have a unique set of values and relationships
- Parents/families are in the lead and have ownership
- Family life provides rich sources for child learning and development
- Improved outcomes when families participate in interventions
- Practice opportunities

PARENT PARTICIPATION
WHAT DO VARIOUS PROFESSIONS SAY ABOUT IT?
PARENT PARTICIPATION

- Oklahoma Parent Organizations
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Speech and Language Association
- Oklahoma State Department of Education
- Oklahoma SoonerStart Early Intervention
- Others?

PARENT PARTICIPATION — WHEN?

- Evaluation of Effectiveness/Measuring Outcomes
- Intervention Plan development/Goal Setting
- Assessment

HOW TO BEGIN THE CONVERSATION

- Tell me about…
- your dreams, hopes, and goals
- a typical weekday
- a typical weekend
- special times your family has shared together
- family traditions and celebrations

- How do you feel about daily routines?
- Child’s participation
- Satisfied
- What works?
- What doesn’t?
- Priorities
- Avoid yes/no questions
PARENT PARTICIPATION – HOW DO YOU IMPLEMENT?

- Strategies
- Obstacles and barriers

IMPLEMENTATION
WHAT STRATEGIES DO YOU CURRENTLY USE?

IMPLEMENTATION
WHAT BARRIERS HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED?
PARENT PARTICIPATION
WHERE DOES IT TAKE PLACE?

EVALUATION THE EFFECTIVENESS

- Ongoing process
- Prioritized Goals
- All phases
- Measures to Use

OUTCOMES
MYTHS
- The strategies discussed don’t work with ALL families
- The families I work with are uninterested or disengaged
- You are trying to make parents be the therapist
- I work in a clinic/school/etc, so this won’t work in my setting
- I have to use standardized testing as an outcome measure

QUESTIONS
References


Oklahoma Family Support Partnership Council. (2002). *Oklahoma individual and family support principles to practice indicators.* Oklahoma City, OK: Center for Learning and Leadership, College of Medicine, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences.


