



# PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

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## WEBINAR WORKSHEET

Part Two

### **About this webinar**

We knew it before, but one thing highlighted by our current circumstances due to COVID-19 is the critical role parents play in the life of their child. Since March, many children with ASD have been primarily, if not solely, at home with their parents. Research tells us parents have a greater influence over the life of their child than anyone else. This is but one reason it is critical that professionals and parents work closely together to support a child with ASD to achieve his/her best life.

In session one we discussed the reasons why partnering with parents is so critical for children with ASD. Participants learned about the principles of family-centered care and key components of effectively working with parents. In this session, part two, participants will learn basic strategies for working together to develop goals, and the use of basic coaching strategies to more effectively support parents in using strategies with their child in home and natural settings.

### **Purpose of this worksheet:**

This worksheet is a tool you can use during the webinar to remember key points and to take notes about how you can apply the information you learn.

*The content included is general information and is not specific medical or behavioral advice. The information provided may not work for every child with autism or their family. We recommend working closely with your child's doctor(s), therapist(s), and/or educator to discuss how the ideas shared may be individualized to meet your child's needs. If you have an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room right away.*

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## A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER AND IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

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### **Recognizing bias.**

It is important to be aware of our own biases and how these biases could be potential barriers to us effectively partnering with parents. Consider the questions below:

- What are my values/beliefs about parenting?
- How do my beliefs impact how I raise my children? Or how I plan to raise my children?
- How do I feel about families who have different values from me?
- What steps can I take to avoid letting my bias interfere with my ability to partner with families I serve?

### **Strategies for Effective Collaboration:**

- Talk openly about expectations
- Talk to families/partners about preferred communication modes
- Have regular check ins
- Be nonjudgmental, open, and honest
- Adjust language to be appropriate for conversation partner
- Use open ended questions when gathering information
- Follow through
  - Raver, SA & Childress, DC 2014

How can I improve my communication with the families I serve?

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## Setting Collaborative Goals:

How can I better partner with parents to set collaborative goals related to the intervention I provide?

## Coaching

What steps can I take to incorporate coaching into my practice with families?

## Resources:

- Coaching in Early Childhood webinar and resources
  - <https://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.com/webinars/coaching-in-early-childhood-by-dathan-rush-and-mlisa-shelden/>
- Foundations for Coaching in Early Childhood
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oswcJ4i0xU>
- Rush, D.D. & Shelden, M.L. (2020). *The Early Childhood Coaching Handbook*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Brookes Publishing, Baltimore, MD. Available on Amazon, ISBN-13: 978-1681252568, ISBN-10: 1681252562