

Benefits of Family Involvement in the Assessment Process

What Happens Before Assessment

Assessment Activity	Benefit to Family	Benefit to the Team	Benefit to District
1) Obtain developmental information (forms and/or interview) 2) Determine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Family background -Child development -Family values -Risk -Protective Factors 3) Prepare family for the process and their role	1) Know the team has important information 2) Understand the rationale and nature of the assessment 3) Build relationship with team as an advocate 4) Understand their importance to the assessment process	1) Can use the information to plan a comprehensive assessment 2) Know priorities of family to include 3) Know who, when, and how to involve family members	1) Establish trust for district process 2) Reduce anxiety about the school district transition

What Happens During Assessment

Assessment Activity	Benefit to Family	Benefit to the Team	Benefit to District
1) Observes with team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - States what is typical - Provides more examples from home -Learns what the play facilitator is doing and why -Helps interpret speech and behavior 2) Joins play (any or all) 3) Asks questions Provides additional information or clarification	1) Sees what the team sees, so discussion after makes sense 2) Is able to describe how child is the same or different at home (validates) 3) Sees strategies used by facilitator that may increase skills (can be used at home) 4) Can be assured the team has the necessary information to make a determination of skills	1) Team sees the child with familiar and unfamiliar people 2) Can determine when and how skills and behaviors are seen or elicited at home 3) Team may try strategies suggested by parent Determine family's response to what they are seeing	1) Obtain comprehensive information from multiple sources Family confirms what team sees

What Happens After Assessment

Assessment Activity	Benefit to Family	Benefit to the Team	Benefit to District
1) Impressions of assessment 2) Debriefing with family -Strengths -Ready for -Ideas for home 3) Follow-up for clarification or questions prior to IEP 4) IEP	1) Opportunity to share impressions of session 2) Family leaves with some information without having to wait for IEP. Not the same as IEP. 3) Lays foundation for understanding and participating in IEP	1) Family responses can clarify what to include in the report 2) Family information can help know what and how to include parents in the IEP Feedback from families helps team write meaningful suggestions for supports at home and school	1) By being part of the whole process, families are more comfortable. It is collaborative rather than confrontational. 2) Fewer due process hearings Information from the assessment informs supports needed in placement