

Collaborative Solutions when Supporting Children who have Developmental Disabilities

Presenters: Tom Robinson (Lead Presenter); Sharon Taylor; Juanita Hagman

Intended Audience: Direct care and management staff; family members/ parents of children who have developmental disabilities, community professionals in health care, social services and therapies.

Session Description

This presentation will focus on approaches utilized to develop support worker effectiveness in meeting the needs of children who have developmental disabilities. The emphasis will be on rural service delivery across a range of environments: child care and preschool settings, a residential resource and in home services.

Issues such as staff recruitment, retention and training will be evaluated. Case studies will be used to illustrate the complexities and potential pitfalls in creating staff-family partnerships, as well as the development of a multi disciplinary support team for a child.

Discussion will center on the creative application of collaborative training across agencies, family centered approaches in guiding direct care staff and strategies to promote team building. Presenters will represent Program areas that include family support, behavioural consultation, child care consultants and 24 hour residential support.

The importance of addressing the unique needs of staff working in relatively remote communities will receive particular attention. This issue will be integrated with identifying the individualized support needs of all ages of children who have developmental disabilities. Transition challenges for school entry, adolescence and adult services will also be explored.

The presentation will invite input from participants in sharing their own issues and solutions.