

## **PARENT and PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION**

**Remember that problem-solving in a collaborative venture will best achieve our common goal - that of becoming a positive driving force toward family-centered, community-based care.**

**Effective and continued communication is essential. Respect each other for his/her individual expertise. Strive for mutual understanding.**

**Try and demonstrate that there can be equal partnerships. Parents should be more than passive consumers, but no one should take a dictatorial stance. Avoid a challenging, adversarial approach.**

**Find out what the health professional needs to provide family-centered care.**

**Be understanding of things that cannot be changed, the time and effort involved, all those "human condition" things.**

**Write down questions and problems to talk about. Don't be afraid to talk or to "use their time." Ask questions rather than make assumptions.**

**Be open to new perspectives and new information.**

**Don't cast every difference as a clash between parent and professional perspectives. We're all "people" first.**

**Be an example of the kind of person you want the professionals to be.**