

## **PARENT AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP**

The parent and the professionals who are responsible for the child's education have the same goal: TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CHILD'S EDUCATION MEETS HIS OR HER NEEDS! It takes effort on the part of the staff and the parent. Here are some suggestions on how the relationship can be strengthened:

- Keep records in a notebook and keep it up-to-date.
- Visit the program as often as possible.
- Meet the teacher, therapist, teacher aides, and any other people who work with the child.
- Come up with a method to communicate with the teacher:
  - Phone the teacher
  - Send notes with the child
  - Start a notebook to send back and forth for regular communications
- Remember to be constructive. Always try to be assertive but not aggressive.
- Say "thanks" often. It's important for all of us to get a "pat on the back."
- Listen carefully to what the teacher and staff have to say about the child. Remember that teachers have many problems to cope with too.
- Be polite and try to stay calm, getting angry only makes things worse!
- Education is a joint effort: what starts at school should continue at home. Work together to help the child reach his/her maximum potential.