

Handout I: Family-Centered Services

- The family is recognized as the child’s most constant and important caregiver.
- The family and professionals collaborate as partners.
- Communication is open and honest, in both directions, between the family and professionals.
- Individual strengths and differences are respected among families.
- Services are flexible and responsive to the family’s needs.
- Family-to-family support is encouraged.
- Children with chronic conditions and their families are treated like other children and families, and not defined by their condition.

Adapted from Shelton, Terri, and Jennifer Smith Stepanek. *Family Centered Care for Children Needing Specialized Health and Developmental Services*. Association for the Care of Children’s Health. Bethesda, Maryland, 1994.