

TEAM

An effective team is essential to having good services for our children with deafblindness. Listed below are suggestions for improving teams.

Techniques for Teams

Every member of the team is important, has right to be listened to and a responsibility to listen to others

A team should have a mission statement (common objectives)

Use principles of collaborative consultation

Use tools to help the team (VISTA, COACH, Personal Futures Planning, Discipline free goals, transdisciplinary teaming, role release, etc.)

Effective teams will need to know how to compromise and use problem solving and collaborating principles.

Effective Communication

We spend years learning how to read, write and speak; what about listening?

Seek first to understand then to be understood

High levels of trust = effective communication

Be aware of nonverbal messages or body language

“Words do not convey meaning; they call them forth. I speak out of the context of my experience, and you listen out of the context of yours.”

Assume the Best in Others

We can get more flies with honey than with vinegar.

A positive attitude helps the team function properly.

Assume the best of others.

Treat all team members with respect

“A smile is a curve that can set a lot of things straight”

Meaningful Information

Every member of a team has the right to be listened to and the responsibility to listen to others.

Feed back is essential.

Avoid the use of jargon and “legalese”

Notes and records are essential

Share information with all members

Tests results should be understood by all.

Together **E**xcellent **A**lone **M**ediocre