ecta Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center | DaSy The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems

Engaging & Empowering Families in Child Outcomes Conversations: Tips from Families and Practitioners

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Tips and Related Resources

1. Build your own COS capacity and be prepared for each family conversation
   - Child Outcomes Summary Online Modules https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/cos-module/
   - Child Outcomes Summary- Team Collaboration (COS-TC) http://olms.cte.jhu.edu/olms2/COSTC
   - Child Outcomes Summary Process Quick Reference Guide https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/eco/cos-quick-reference-guide.pdf

2. Help each family understand why we measure outcomes and what to expect
   - Child Outcomes Step by Step – Video - https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/videos.asp
   - The Breadth of The Three Child Outcomes https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/childoutcomes.asp

3. Intentionally discuss the child's functional use of skills relative to age expectations
   - Age Anchoring Guidance for Determining Child Outcomes Summary (COS) Ratings https://ectacenter.org/~pdfs/eco/COS_Age_Anchoring_Guidance.pdf
   - Understanding Functional Skills: Background for the COS Process https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/cos-functional.asp

4. Individualize the process for each family and encourage their input and expertise
   - Considerations for COS Completion When Teams Can't Meet In Person https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/cos-distance.asp
   - Supporting Family Member Informed Decision Making https://ectacenter.org/decrp/topic-family.asp

5. Listen and acknowledge emotions
   - Helping Families Be Full Team Members https://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-pgpractitioner.asp
   - Teaming Members Engaging in Quality Communication https://ectacenter.org/decrp/type-pgpractitioner.asp

6. Remember that words matter
   - Parent to Parent USA Support -Provides emotional and informational support to families of children who have special needs https://www.parentcenterhub.org/parent-to-parent-support/
   - Key Terms to Know in Special Education https://www.parentcenterhub.org/keyterms-specialed/

7. Use COS concepts throughout IFSP/IEP entry to exit processes
   - IFSP/IEP Outcomes integration https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/ifsp-iep.asp
   - IFSP Outcomes Integration Flow Chart https://ectacenter.org/eco/assets/pdfs/IFSP-OutcomesFlowChart.pdf
   - IEP Outcomes Integration Flow Chart https://ectacenter.org/eco/assets/pdfs/IEP-OutcomesFlowChart.pdf