

FAMILY-CENTRED PRACTICE **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

PREMISES, PRINCIPLES AND ELEMENTS OF FAMILY-CENTRED PRACTICE

Premise 1: *Parents know their children best and want the best for their children*

Guiding Principles:

- Each family should have the opportunity to decide the level of involvement they wish in decision-making for their child
- Parents should have the ultimate responsibility for the care of their children

Service provider behaviours:

- To encourage parent decision-making
- To assist in identifying strengths
- To provide information
- To assist in identifying needs
- To collaborate with parents
- To provide accessible services
- To share information about the child

Premise 2: *Families are different and unique*

Guiding principle:

- Each family and each family member should be treated with respect (as individuals)

Service provider behaviours:

- To respect families
- To support families
- To listen
- To provide individualised services
- To accept diversity
- To believe and trust parents
- To communicate clearly

Premise 3: *Optimal child functioning occurs within a supportive family framework and community context. The child is affected by the stress and coping of other family members.*

Guiding principles:

- The needs of all family members should be considered
- The involvement of all family members

Service provider behaviours:

- To consider the psychosocial needs of all family members
- To encourage the participation of all family members
- To respect coping styles
- To encourage the use of community supports
- To build on strengths