

Myths and Truths About Family-Centered Practice

Myth -- The role of professionals is diminishing

Truths

- Professionals are vital to effective intervention.
- A professional's knowledge, skills and experience complement a family's knowledge of their own child
- A professional's understanding of family preferences and priorities help strengthen a family's commitment to care for their child over a lifetime

Myth – Only family concerns are important

Truths

- If families are to be the ultimate decision makers, they need to be given all the information so they can make informed decisions
- Professionals may need to take one step at a time, building off the family's priorities, but also voicing their concerns and asking the parents' permission to move forward

Myth – Only professionals must change

Truths

- No one can operate in isolation
- For us to achieve the goal of family-centered practice, professionals, agencies and policy makers may have to change, but families will also need to change
- Family members must have the resources and desire to participate in new ways. The level of participation may vary across families and within families over time, but as families feel more secure in their role they will become more empowered
- Each family will decide on what they want for their children and how they want to be involved