

KY-SPIN, Inc. Information Sheet Series “Working with Families”*

Below is a list of things many families who have a child with a disability would like you to know. By no means is this list to be critical of professionals, instead it is intended to help build healthy and lasting partnerships.

- ♥ We have dreams for our children with disabilities just as all parents do, even if you do not feel they are realistic or feasible, we are still entitled to them.
- ♥ Please call us by our names versus, “Mom” or “Dad” we are people first just as our child with a disability is a child first.
- ♥ Pity or pats on the back in sympathy are not needed; we need our personal space just like anyone else. We value each member of our family no matter the level of their disability.
- ♥ It is overwhelming to come into a meeting with a whole group of professionals and it is just you. It by nature is very unbalanced and can feel as if you are the only one on your child’s side.
- ♥ When we request something in writing, whether you are a parent or professional, it is nothing personal. If it is not in writing it does not exist.
- ♥ Please do not get offended when we ask for a policy/procedure/law in writing; we want to be informed and on the same page.
- ♥ Please give us all the options upfront so that we can make an informed decision for our child. This will also help avoid tension if we realize later all the facts were not shared.
- ♥ We want to work together and build a support system for our child.
- ♥ We do not want to argue or fight, we just want what is best for our child’s future.
- ♥ We know our child best and expect to be an equal member of the team.
- ♥ Through partnership and communication we can do wonders for our children!

*This is not intended to represent how all families of children with disabilities feel. Rather it is a compilation of things many families have shared with KY-SPIN, Inc. and it’s purpose is to help strengthen parent and professional relationships to benefit the children.



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