

The Parent Partner's Important Role on the Autism Intervention Team

<p>The Parent Partner is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a parent of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder who has knowledge of the services and systems families can access • a full partner on the team • a compassionate and non-judgmental listener • good at brainstorming solutions with the team • an OHSU employee and trained in HIPAA 	<p>The Parent Partner is not expected to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a case manager • a volunteer • privy to medical records or educational records outside of the team process • the New Parent's only source of help • the families' crisis manager.
<p>The Parent Partner does:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help the team understand the concerns of the New Parents • share their personal experiences with autism, including which kinds of treatment or management they use, school placements, community inclusion, etc. • introduce new parents to community activities, events, and supports • contact the New Parent once or twice after the team meeting to check progress and offer guidance • meet New Parents in person in a public location when necessary or preferable 	<p>The Parent Partner does not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide on-going care-coordination or emotional support • make home visits* • transport parents or children • volunteer their time to the team • attend IEPs* • give advice to parents on which kinds of treatment, management, or educational placement to pursue <p>*In some circumstances, home visits and IEP attendance can be approved by OCCYSHN Family Involvement Coordinator.</p>
<p>Communication tips for Parent Partners and Team Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team should provide Parent Partner with contact information so that Parent Partner can contact family in advance of the meeting. • Parent Partners are expected to speak up in meetings if and when they note that the family is confused, upset, or otherwise needs an advocate. • Team meetings should include an opportunity for Parent Partners to present observations, concerns, ask questions, etc. • Parent Partners should be informed about all meeting logistics and have adequate notice for team meetings. 	
<p>The Job of the Parent Partner is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact the parents before the evaluation to answer questions, offer guidance, and support. • be present at the time that assessment results are shared, providing emotional support and helping the parent understand what is being explained to them. • share initial resources with families: specifically, the <i>Getting Started Guide</i>, <i>Trust it or Trash it</i>, the <i>100 Days Toolkit</i> and other resources the team may wish to give. • make one or two follow up calls to the parent after evaluation meeting to answer questions, check process, and offer further guidance to families. • remind parents to respond to the OCCYSHN parent satisfaction survey. • check OHSU email box at least one time per week and respond to emails. • submit time card monthly. • attend Parent Partner monthly webinars and AIT bi-monthly webinars. 	

The Parent Partner's role in sensitive situations:

From time to time, situations arise when Parent Partners are privy to information from or about families that is sensitive or concerning. In those cases, and especially when child abuse or domestic violence is suspected, or if the family is experiencing crisis, the Parent Partner should immediately contact the team members and the OCCYSHN Family Involvement Coordinator for support and direction.

We believe that families, with supportive guidance, are capable of and responsible for conducting their own research and making their own decisions about their child's autism treatment.

