

Presenter: Ellen Panjari

Topic: Family Centred Practise – Cultural Diversity

FOCUS -relationship building.

-strengths – what the family CAN do.

-identify WHICH family members are involved.

NEEDS -collaboration between family and professionals.

-promote choices and decision making.

-be flexible and individualize support.

-build parent capacity and strengthen family functioning.

HOME ENVIRONMENT

-learning happens in the home. When you are in the home you can see how the family functions, what is happening, parents' expectations, and family well-being.

-if you cannot do parent visits negotiate alternative meeting places.

-Be aware of the language that you use.

-do not stereotype families or groups into religion, etc...e.g. 'these Muslim people...' We don't talk about working with Christian families so why talk about working with Muslim families.

INTERPRETERS

-need to check if an interpreter is required. Also check dialects, preference for male/female.

-need to emphasise confidentiality when working with interpreter.

It can take a long time to create good conditions.

There was a general discussion on this topic. The Australian teachers were amazed at how we were able to work with our parents, how some of NZ's IEP's are run (when parents are unwilling to attend this meeting – home visit to gather info to present to IEP, IEP meeting then return visit to discuss with parent). They envied our family focused service where we radiate from the family, to child, then school...etc.