

PARENT-PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

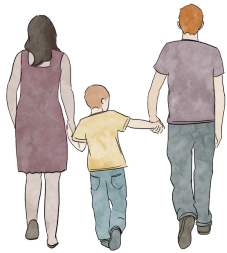


The following statement was written by and for parents.

It was developed at the inaugural
Plumtree Now And Next Alumni Conference
April 2017.



THE BEST PARTNERSHIPS



- have the best interests of our children at their heart;
- are firmly child- and family-centred, reflecting the strengths and needs of our children and our families;
- respect the unique expertise that we, as parents, have as our children's frontline educators;
- equally respect the knowledge and guidance that professionals offer to us and to our children;
- are based on open, honest, and respectful communication between parents, professionals, and children, so that relationships are safe, collaborative and supportive for all parties, and
- recognise the expectations required of parents, professionals, and children, to achieve the most positive outcomes for our children.

THE BEST RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOP WHEN



- parents and professionals together agree upon the most meaningful goals for our children;
- goals are measurable, achievable, and relevant to us as unique individuals;
- we plan together the strategies and processes we will use to implement and achieve our child and family goals;
- we agree on how we will evaluate our progress together;
- professionals support the capacity of our families to implement strategies in the natural settings of our homes and communities, and
- the whole family is empowered to support the achievement of our children's and families' goals.

OUR CHILDREN NEED PROFESSIONALS WHO



- see our children as children, and not as their disability or diagnosis;
- are empathetic, understanding and passionate;
- are flexible, supportive and child-centred in their interactions;
- develop a personal relationship with our children directly;
- develop sessions that are as enjoyable, fun, engaging, relevant and meaningful to our children as individuals as is possible, and
- relate to our children within the frame of their individual interests and strengths.

WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO



- be the most powerful agents for change for our children;
- believe in our own agency as the experts in our children;
- embrace our experiences and wisdom as valued and valuable;
- share our expertise with our professional partners to achieve the best outcomes for our children;
- be confident leaders in professional partnerships because of the unique insight that we offer;
- engage in self-education so that we can continue to be active and informed leaders in our partnerships, and
- share our knowledge and experiences with other parents, so that we can build a strong network of educated and empowered parent leaders who have confidence in their own self-worth and competency.

Compiled by Dr Melanie Heyworth, parent

Read the full statement at:

<http://now-and-next-alumni.blogspot.com.au/2017/04/parent-position-statement-about.html>