Christine's Chronicles: Communication for Collaboration

Christine shares about how her son's IEP team has communicated effectively in both face-to-face meetings and through email communication to work together to make decisions.

Christine and Luke

CONNECT's latest module "Communication for Collaboration" demonstrates effective communication practices for teams to use to work together. These are the basic communication skills that every practitioner should use in communicating with families and other professionals. I'm thankful that Luke's IEP team consists of seasoned professionals who do a fantastic job of listening to others, expressing their own ideas, and working together to make decisions. Our team struggles more with just finding the time to communicate. With teachers' busy schedules, therapists who are only in a few days a week, and a working mom, it's tough to find a time when we can all sit down together and talk.

At our most recent team meeting, we had a great discussion, but his speech therapist was unable to attend. So I followed up the meeting with an email to the group, including his speech therapist, continuing the discussion around a particular goal and intervention idea we had for Luke. Others chimed in, and within a few days we had implemented a new intervention. We were all on the same page and we all agreed on the next steps. Would more face-to-face meetings help? Of course. But it's just not realistic. And the group email got the job done.

My experience thus far has been that the early childhood world is moving slowly at embracing new technology. But a group email is a very easy place to start. A group discussion area for Luke's IEP team would be even better. Team members could upload photos or videos to share. In fact, I think I'm going to go create a discussion area right now. I'll let you know how it works out for us.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS
Have you found collaborating with practitioners and families challenging? What worked for your team? Did you find any particular technologies useful?

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