

Positioning Tips

Benefits to Proper Positioning:

- Families have a greater connection/relationship with their team
- Communication flows better and is a dialogue rather than a three way discussion
- Provider has a greater relationship with the family
- Families are engaged, empowered, and participate more in the visit/meeting
- Interpreter relationships with family/provider are of a professional nature
- Interpreter role will be more clearly defined

Positioning in a meeting:

- Position yourself slightly behind the family member/caregiver unless the provider directs you otherwise
- This position facilitates the communication between the service coordinator/provider & the family (rather than the interpreter and the family)
- The interpreter should be “invisible” and should only offer the voice necessary to communicate

Positioning during family visits:

- Remember that the relationship is between the provider and the family/child
- Proper positioning may vary depending on what you are working on
- Providers & Interpreters must communicate effectively
 - Positioning should be discussed during the briefing session
 - Discussions regarding the best place to position yourself when the provider transitions in and out of activities with the child & family may need to occur
 - Interpreters & providers must be flexible and move in and out of different positions throughout the family visit as needed
 - Signals/Cues should be established for the provider/interpreter to communicate how/when the position needs to change during a family visit

Positioning Examples:

Speech Therapists may want the interpreter to:

- Sit slightly behind the parent/caregiver when communicating with and teaching the caregiver techniques to support the child’s development
- Sit beside them when interpreting for the child so the child will look in one general direction
 - To prevent confusing the child who may otherwise be looking back and forth between people

Vision Therapists may want the interpreter to:

- Stay by their side and should give guidance and instruct the interpreter about where they should position themselves
- Be sure to show the family member respect and inform them that position is best for the interaction that needs to occur between the child and therapist

Physical Therapists may require the interpreter to:

- Walk or move around a lot to maintain the flow of interpretation
- Interpreter should be discreet and wait for the right time to move as not to distract the child from the interaction he/she is having with the therapist