

# The Coaching Partnership

## 6 Characteristics for Building Relationships with Families

### Trust

Adults learn within the context of trusting relationships with their EI providers!! If we can develop open, respectful and trusting relationships with our families, then coaching will come more easily as we are both learning from each other!

Openness to change is a process and is work within ourselves. It refers to our level of acceptance and conscious awareness of the possibility that change may be needed across a range of situations, together with a drive to enact that change.

### Openness to Change

### Role Sharing

Role Sharing is recognizing that professionals come with a set of knowledge and skills AND that families also come to the EI partnership with knowledge and expertise of their children and family. It involves balancing the power in the partnership.

Communication is bi-directional and involves sending and receiving information between both professionals and families (e.g. active listening, verbal, non-verbal and written), which is vital to the coaching partnership.

### Communication

### Cultural Reciprocity

Cultural reciprocity involves learning about each family and their unique culture, sharing information with families about your own culture, and exchanging perspectives and information. It's not one sided but brings perspectives together.

When working in a relationship-based field, like EI, it's critical to be caring, compassionate, responsive and empathic with families and their circumstances. Equally important is taking care of yourself. Self care is not selfish or self-indulgent.

### Caring – For Yourself & Others