

The TEAM Approach to Maximizing a Child's Communication

Judy Sexton, M.S., CED, LSLS Cert. AVEEd
Clarke School for Hearing and Speech
MaryKay Therres, M.S., CCC-SLP, Cert. AVT
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



The TEAM Approach to Maximizing a Child's Communication

- Skill set (knowledge)
- Collaboration

TEAM

**Education:
teacher**

**Education:
SLP**

Together

Child

Audiology

Family

Medical

The TEAM

- **T**ogether (collaboration)
- **E**ducation (teacher, speech-language pathologist)
- **A**udiology
- **M**edical
- **(F**amily)

Education: Teacher Skill Set

- Provide a learning environment to meet the needs of a child in all developmental domains (academic, emotional, social, cognitive, motor, behavior, communication)
- Plan and use strategies, materials and resources to develop communication and academics
- Develop IFSP/IEP (case manager)
- Provide educational assessments
- Work with families and provide information regarding hearing loss, development and educational needs

Education: Teacher Skill Set

- Understand implications of hearing loss on listening and spoken language development
- Knowledge of child development from infancy through adolescence.
- Serve as liaison between all professionals and family
- Provide support to other professionals (ie: IEPs, amplification, in-services)
- Provide direct service including pre- and post-teaching of vocabulary and language of the curriculum
- Check and troubleshoot equipment

Education: SLP Skill Set

- Knowledge of typical communicative development
- Understand typical child development
- Understand effects of hearing loss on communicative development
- Assess and monitor speech and language skills
- Differentiate between communication delay and disorder

Education: SLP Skill Set

- Knowledge to identify and target specific listening and spoken language skills (auditory, speech and language hierarchy)
- Identify and utilize appropriate materials and resources (intervention and assessment)
- Familiarity with equipment

Audiology: Audiologist Skill Set

- Knowledge of current technology
- Knowledge of audiological testing-particularly for children
- Understand the implications of hearing loss on listening and spoken language development
- Skill in fitting hearing aids and other amplification devices (FM, BAHA) and mapping cochlear implants
- Identify appropriate resources (mandated)
- Counsel families

Medical: Surgeon Skill Set

- Responsible for all medical implications from etiology to surgery
- Understanding effects of hearing loss and performance outcomes
- Counsel families
- Understanding of technology
- Knowledge of other professional's roles

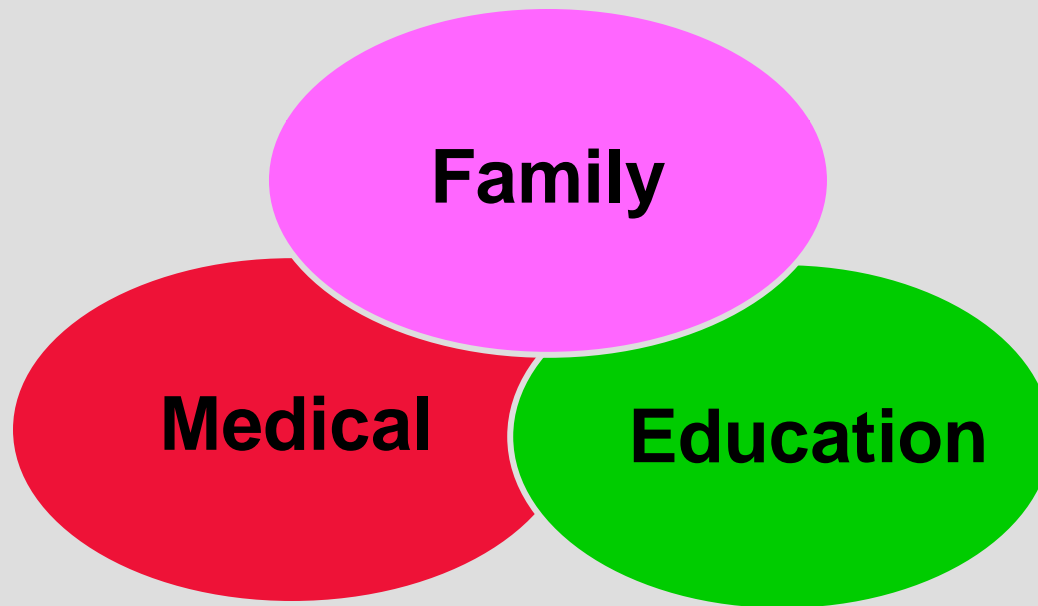
Family: Caregiver Skill Set

- Primary case manager but also part of a team
- Understand the uniqueness of their child
- Have reasonable expectations
- Understand hearing loss
- Commitment to the process required to develop listening and spoken language skills
- Understand and troubleshoot technology
- Informed consumers (technology and education)

Family: Questions to Ask

- What are my communication options?
- What are my educational options?
- What technology is available?
- Who are the professionals providing services?
- What should their qualifications and experiences be?
- What are resources available? (organizations, other families, information, etc.)
- Why does my child have a hearing loss?-will it get worse?

TEAM-Collaboration Settings



Collaboration: Educational Setting

- Have signed release forms
- When possible be aware of medical appointments
- Share information-progress reports
- Share concerns (lack of progress, issues arising, family challenges, etc.)
- Describe educational program and services and any changes in these

Collaboration: Medical Setting

- Have signed release forms
- Share reports (audiology, speech-language pathology, medical)
- Share concerns (lack of progress, issues arising, family challenges, etc.)
- Invite all service providers to attend a session

Collaboration: Family

- Sign release of information
- Share IFSP/IEP with medical
- Share reports
- Provide names of service providers and contact information
- Knowledge of goals



How to Collaborate

- Emails
- Phone contact
- Mail
- Communication books
- Hospital or school visits

Contact

**Obtain
reports**

Share

**Family- Education-Medical
Partnership**

Site visits

Respect

?

Conclusion

Utilizing the TEAM approach provides the maximal opportunity for a child to develop listening and spoken language skills to their fullest potential

- Knowledgeable professionals and parents
- Collaboration
- Continuity of care