

Systems Thinking and Individualization: *Building Collaborative Systems*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

THINK ABOUT IT!

■ Self-Reflection

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

■ Reflect with Others

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

■ The Power of Practice

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- What structures can I put in place to encourage family members, other professionals, and specialists to actively share their perspectives and expertise with me?
- How can I share my perspectives with other members of the team?
- How do I collaborate with other team members to establish a shared understanding of the “big picture”?
- What structures do I have in place to support ongoing communication among team members?
- How can I improve the collaborative systems in which I work?

TRY IT OUT!

Think about a team of colleagues and family members you work with to support an individual child. Identify each of the team members. How might you take the lead in improving this collaboration?

- Identify current communication structures you have in place. What changes could you make to improve collaboration among team members?
- Implement one improvement to your collaborative system that will enhance communication among the team members.
- Share with all team members your plan to improve collaboration.

For one to two weeks, keep track of any information shared among the team members.

How Did It Go?

Reflect on any information shared by team members after working on improving collaboration.

- What were the changes in communication?

What Next?

Share your experience with the new communication structure with other team members. Ask them to share their experiences in working with the new communication structure. Discuss the system and whether or not it was usable by all team members.

The habits of a systems thinker are adapted from the work of the Waters Foundation.
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