



Collaborating with Families Tip Sheet

In order to promote generalization of independent living and community life skills to students' natural home environments and to increase the amount of practice a student has, it is essential to collaborate with families. This tip sheet provides tips, strategies, and examples related to family collaboration.

Tips

- Discuss independent living and community life skills at the student's IEP meeting.
- Send home task analyses of skills for families to implement with their child.
- Send home simple data sheets for the families to track their child's progress at home.
- Send home visuals to put around the house.
- Give family members a list of skills they can work on with their children in the community. For example, you could check out the "Teaching Community Life Skills During Community-Based Instruction" resource in Lesson 3 of this course.

Strategies for Collaboration

- Ask families which skills they are already teaching at home and discuss how you can support this learning.
- Use a daily school-home communication sheet to exchange information with families about their students' independent living and community life skills progress.
- Discuss with families which skills easily fit into the routine of students' home lives and then teach those in the classroom.
- Encourage family members to add skills to the student's chores after they master them. These chores build responsibility and save the family members time.
- Consider the family's weekend plans (e.g. going to a baseball game, visiting a grandparent, etc.) if the family chooses to share them. Send home ideas about ways to incorporate community living skills within these plans. (E.g. At the baseball game, the student could purchase a snack and ensure they receive the correct amount of change back.)

Examples of Skills Families Can Work on at Home

- Following routines for getting ready for school in the morning and getting ready for bed at night (take a shower, put on pajamas, brush your teeth, floss your teeth, go to bed, etc.)
- Vacuuming
- Folding clothes



- Dressing
- Washing dishes
- Managing an allowance
- Calling a friend
- Taking turns in conversation
- Setting up a paratransit ride
- Using an alarm to wake up

Examples of Skills Families Can Work on in the Community

- Purchasing items
- Identifying community landmarks
- Using a rideshare app
- Greeting people
- Asking for help from workers in a community location
- Ordering food
- Communicating health needs at the doctor's office

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