

PRINCIPLES OF FAMILY SUPPORT

Adapted from Guidelines for Family Support Practice (1996) Chicago: Family Resource Coalition.

1. Staff and families work together in relationships based on equality and respect.
 - Families, staff, and volunteers work as a TEAM. “We” do not have all the solutions to “their” problems.
2. Staff enhances families’ capacity to support the growth and development of all family members—adults, youth and children.
 - All members of every family can benefit from support, no matter how young or old.
3. Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs, and to communities.
 - Each family member is vital to each family unit and to the community. Each person’s unique life experiences are valued, and others can benefit from that knowledge.
4. Programs affirm and strengthen families’ cultural, racial, and linguistic identities and enhance their ability to function in a multicultural society.
 - FamilyWorks strives to engage a diversity of people: listening, supporting, and engaging in ways that are meaningful to each person with respect to their culture and language.
5. Programs are embedded in their communities and contribute to the community-building process.
 - FamilyWorks partners with many different community groups and organizations and finds ways to contribute to community building events. We support individuals who would like to create supportive networks, such as a language specific playgroup.
6. Programs advocate with families for services and systems that are fair, responsive, and accountable to the families served.
 - Staff are mindful of current policies that affect families and stand up for people while working to educate and engage families, empowering folks to have their own voice for change.
7. Practitioners work with families to mobilize formal and informal resources to support family development.
 - Staff help to find the most meaningful and relevant resources as requested by families. Opportunities are made available to families to share resources with others.
8. Programs are flexible and continually responsive to emerging family and community issues.
 - We’re always looking for input from the community!
9. Principles of family support are modeled in all program activities, including planning, governance, and administration.
 - It’s important to not lose the vision of what FamilyWorks is all about—strengthening the community through resources based on cooperation, equality, and respect.