A Trajectory of Relationship Development for Early Intervention Practice

Each early intervention service is unique with interactions involving different people in different places. Families and professionals engage in a relationship to help the child with special needs meet their full potential. This means that the relationship is key to successful early intervention. Relationships between children, their parents and the professionals are complex and are dependent on a lot of different factors. A road map of explicit relationship stages is needed to facilitate all involved in the relationship to work together.

In 2012, 5 children (aged between 2 years and 5 years), 6 parents and 17 professionals shared their experiences of your early intervention service. A roadmap in the form of a developmental relationship trajectory emerged. This roadmap is shown below.

The people in this study recognised that interpersonal and professional relationships exist in early intervention. They also highlighted the importance of transitions also emerged.

The study highlighted that the early intervention relationship journey can begin, progress and end smoothly with

- Knowledge of the relationship stages
- Awareness of what stage each participant is at in the relationship
- Each partner taking personal accountability within the relationship.

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