

Aspect Positive Behaviour Support

Measuring Family Empowerment

aspect
practice

Empowerment of parents who have a child with a disability is a very important aspect of service provision. The Enabling Practices Scale is a useful tool which measures whether Positive Behaviour Support and services have empowered and enabled parents through the course of service provision.

What is Empowerment?

Empowerment enables families to feel more in control of their environment and better able to cope with the daily demands of parenting a child with a disability.

- ✓ Professionals should recognise that parents are experts with their own child
- ✓ Professionals should respect parent decisions about the needs of their child
- ✓ Professionals should communicate openly and honestly with parents about the needs of their child

The Enabling Practices Scale (EPS)

One way to measure whether services work to empower families is to use the EPS at the end of any service. This scale consists of 24 items which relate to:

- ✓ How comfortable the family felt receiving help from professionals;
- ✓ The fair and equal collaboration between families and professionals;
- ✓ How empowered and autonomous parents felt when parenting their child

If family empowerment is important to you, ask your service provider to use the EPS to review their service to you.

Reference: Dempsey, I. (1995) *Australia & New Zealand Journal of Developmental Disabilities* 20, 1 pages 67 - 73

Enabling Practices Scale

Instructions:

Parents or carers rate to what extent they feel the statement is: very true, Mostly true, somewhat true, mostly not true or not true at all about the service they are receiving for your child. Circle one number in each row

	Not true At all	Mostly not True	Some-what True	Mostly True	Very True
1. The staff and I agree on what is most important in my son's/ daughter's program.	1	2	3	4	5
2. It is easy to follow the advice of the staff.	1	2	3	4	5
3. The staff consider my family and friends when discussing my son's/ daughter's program.	1	2	3	4	5

	Not true At all	Mostly not True	Some-what True	Mostly True	Very True
4. I am the person who makes the most important decisions about my son's/ daughter's program.	1	2	3	4	5
5. The staff's suggestions for working with my son/daughter make me feel comfortable.	1	2	3	4	5
6. The staff accept our family's values and beliefs.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I am an equal partner in the relationship I have with the staff.	1	2	3	4	5
8. Working with the staff has made me feel more capable.	1	2	3	4	5
9. It is easy to work together with the staff when planning my son's/daughter's program.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I feel I should be given the most credit for the progress my son/daughter makes.	1	2	3	4	5
11. With the support of the staff, I am able to solve problems quickly.	1	2	3	4	5
12. The suggestions that the staff make are positive.	1	2	3	4	5
13. The staff encourage me to contact my family and friends when I need advice.	1	2	3	4	5
14. The staff care about my son/daughter and my family.	1	2	3	4	5
15. The assistance the staff gives meets our family's needs.	1	2	3	4	5
16. The staff anticipate our family's concerns and needs.	1	2	3	4	5
17. I am the person most responsible for the important changes in the life of my son/daughter.	1	2	3	4	5
18. I feel comfortable giving the staff advice if they ask me for assistance.	1	2	3	4	5
19. By following the staff's suggestions I have learned how to deal with family concerns.	1	2	3	4	5
20. The staff offer help in response to our family's needs.	1	2	3	4	5
21. I decide the programs for my son/daughter.	1	2	3	4	5
22. The staff are happy to accept my suggestions.	1	2	3	4	5
23. I feel that I am able to carry out the suggestions of the staff.	1	2	3	4	5
24. The staff's suggestions for working with my son/daughter at home produce good results.	1	2	3	4	5