



WORKING WITH YOUNG
CHILDREN WITH TRAUMA
– APPLYING PRACTICE
PRINCIPLE 1 FAMILY-
CENTRED PRACTICE



Reflective questions

1. What would families say if they were asked for examples that illustrate the characteristics of family-centred practice?

2. How do you think families see the relationship with professionals in the service? How could you find out?

3. Reflect on and discuss with colleagues what family-centred practice means to you.

4. Do your philosophy statement and policies reflect and encourage family-centred practice?

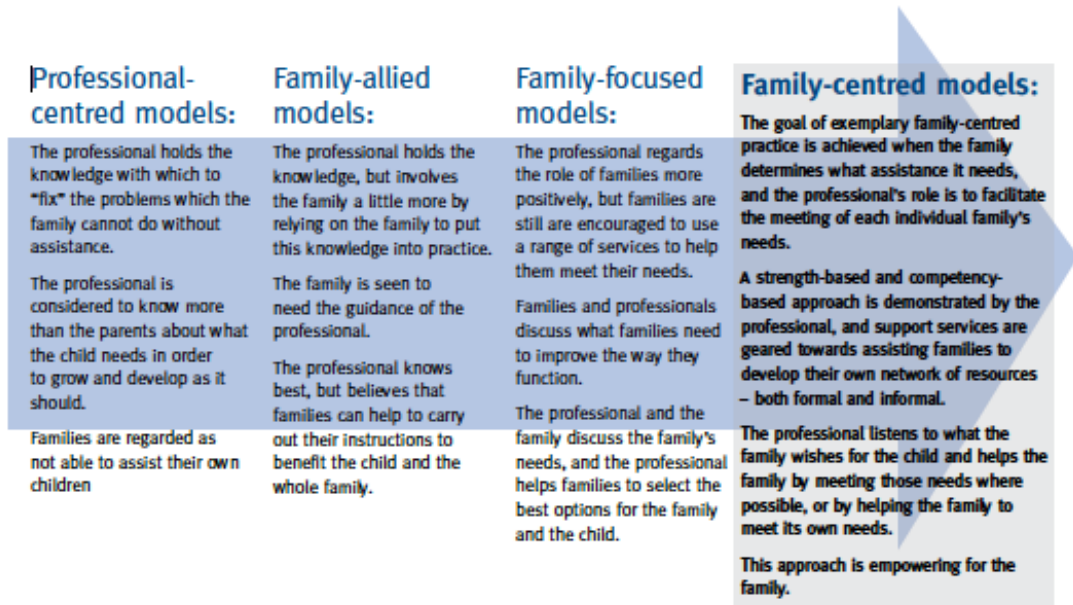
5. What are some examples of practices in your service that illustrate key points about family-centred practice in the Victorian Early Years Learning Development Framework (VEYLDF)?

6. What improvements can you make?



discussion starter

Figure 1: Moving towards family-centred practice
(adapted from Dunst et al., 1991)



Source: *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework Practice Principle Guide 1 Family-centred Practice*, 2012, <www.education.vic.gov.au/earlylearning>, p 5.

1. Where does your service fit in the continuum from a professional-centred model to a family-centred model?

2. Do different practices and policies in your service illustrate different points along the continuum? How?

3. What steps can you take to move your service further along the continuum?



Reflective questions

1. What do you see as the main benefits of family-centred practice for the children who you work with?

2. Compare your list of benefits with those below.

Family-centred practice has numerous benefits for children. It:

- promotes attachment and strong family-child relationships
- supports continuity of learning and care experiences
- provides a secure base for learning
- promotes positive attitudes to learning.

3. Evidence indicates that home literacy practices are more powerful than classroom literacy experiences. What are the implications of this for early childhood professionals?

4. How does your current practice acknowledge the importance of home literacy practices?



Reflective questions

1. What do families see in the physical environment in your service that links to their cultures, languages, communities and family life?

2. What are some examples from your own practice of responding to children in the context of family, culture and community?

3. How do you find out about these contexts?

4. What more could you do?

5. Where might you find help to do this?



DISCUSSION STARTER

Read the following case study and discuss the questions provided.

A family day care field worker described her program's attempts over several years to offer social events and talks about child rearing. Attendance was very low which resulted in professionals complaining about parents 'just not caring'. They started to see it differently when a colleague suggested that instead of blaming families maybe they just got it wrong. *What's wrong with parents voting with their feet?* she asked. That helped the scheme to see that they were making assumptions about what parents should be interested in.

Now she reports they ask families what they want. As a result what they offer is much more popular.

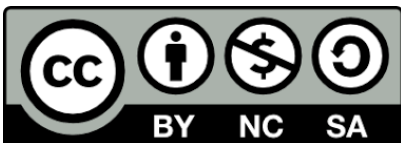
1. Have you experienced similar unexpected outcomes from planned parent education activities or events? If so, how have you responded?

2. What assumptions were you making about families?

3. How might you challenge attitudes that may unfairly position some families as *not interested* or *uncaring*?

4. Identify some new strategies for a more family-centred approach to involving parents or for family responsive events.





This document is licensed by WHGNE under a Creative Commons Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.
To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0>

BY: Credit must be given to Women's Health Goulburn North East, the creator. **NC:** Only non-commercial use of the work is permitted. **SA:** Adaptations must be shared under the same terms.

Women's Health Goulburn North East
Phone: (03) 5722 3009
Email: whealth@whealth.com.au
www.whealth.com.au

