

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES:

Making the Shift with Parents

From: Old Ways of Relating

To: New Ways of Empowering

Involving families in only non-decision making roles



Respecting family members as equals who are important to the decision-making process

Asking families to conform to existing rules and to accommodate existing structures



Encouraging families to participate in changing rules and improving structures

Intimidating family members and inhibiting their contributions through use of jargon and practices



Engaging and respecting family members by supporting them to take leadership roles

Directive communication *to* families



Facilitating two-way communication with families

Working with family members who represent only a small segment of the community



Working with family members who reflect a cross-section of the community

Involving one or two “token” family members



Involving many family members with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints

Doing things *to* families, or for families



Doing things *with* families