



Parents as Partners

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[PowerPoint transcript]

We'll focus on

- the need for cooperation between the parents and teachers,
- the prospects for successful cooperation between the parents and teachers,
- the possibility of parental non-participation,
- the alternatives when we, the teachers, cannot do anything.

PETER'S STORY

Cooperation between parents and teachers of a sick child is necessary for effective teaching and child's inclusion.

Cooperation involving the doctor or multidisciplinary team on each ward is also necessary.

PARENTS - TEACHER – DOCTOR, INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Good cooperation between parents and teachers requires the following:

Teachers should:

- respect the sick child,
- understand the sick child,
- respect the parents of the sick child,
- understand what the sick child's parents think and experience.

Parents should:

- love, understand and respect their child,
- respect the teachers,
- understand what the sick child's teachers think and experience.

Teachers and parents should:

- listen (not only talk) to each other,
- establish a relationship of mutual trust,
- cooperate towards a common goal – the child's best interests.

PARENTS AND TEACHERS AS PARTNERS

CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS

What does it mean to work for child's best interests?



What should a teacher know about the parents of a sick child?

The sick child's parents deal with issues the average parent doesn't have to deal with:

- They worry about their child's health.
- They worry about their child's life.
- They worry about their child's future.
- They feel fear.
- They face trying to accept their child's illness and go through denial, anger, bargaining, and finally acceptance.
- They face the stress of additional obligations, including travelling to and from the hospital for regular visits.
- They are burdened with guilt.
- They are burdened financially.
- They struggle with keeping their family life and partnership intact.

What should a teacher know about the parents of a sick child?

- o LOVE
- o CONCERN FOR THE CHILD
- o FEAR
- o WORRIES

What should parents need to know about the teacher of their sick child?

The teacher:

- worries about the sick pupil's life and well-being,
 - cares about teaching the sick pupil in the most effective way possible,
 - cares about teaching the sick pupil in a way that would not cause any further illness,
 - worries that the teaching tasks will not be fulfilled.
- o CONCERN FOR THE PUPIL
 - o DEVOTION/LOVE
 - o FEARS
 - o WORRIES

What should parents/teachers know about their sick child/pupil?

The sick child wants, like any child, to be diligent and successful.

The sick child did not choose to have a serious disease.

The sick child wants to be healthy, just like any other child.

The sick pupil does not want special treatment.

The sick child cares about their parents and doesn't want them to worry.

The sick child may be afraid of having no friends.

The sick child may fear not being able to live with the disease.

- o BE THE NORMAL CHILD
- o LOVE
- o CONCERN
- o FEAR
- o WORRIES



Parents of a sick child usually find it difficult to believe and trust other people in terms of caring for their child. They often believe that only they themselves know what is best for their child. We need to obtain the confidence of a sick child's parents.

TRUST - JOINT COOPERATION

How does a teacher gain the confidence of parents?

Confidence is gained by:

- Understanding the child's and parents' feelings.
- Respecting and observing the parents.
- Respecting and appreciating their child.
- Demonstrating a responsible attitude toward the school work.
- Demonstrating a devoted relationship to their child.

Sharing a teaching plan for their child that is:

- ✓ clear
- ✓ transparent
- ✓ appropriate
- ✓ useful
- ✓ realistic
- Demonstrating a competent knowledge base.
- Demonstrating that the child's best interests are being kept foremost in mind.

WHAT WENT WRONG IN PETER'S STORY?

- The parents were not able to accept their son's disease; because of their lack of acceptance, they remained angry at the entire world.
- The parents' inability to accept the son's disease was compounded by their own health problems and partner relationship issues.
- They were not able to see what was best for their child.

FAIL TO SEE THE BEST INTEREST OF THEIR CHILD

FAILURE

Competence of a sick pupil's teacher to accept the failure

What can we do when we cannot do anything?

- WAIT TILL THE RIGHT TIME COMES?
- TRY TO CONVINCING PARENTS?
- TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PARENTS?



TO CONCLUDE

- MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS
- MUTUAL TRUST
- JOINED PARTICIPATION
- CHILD'S BEST INTERESTS =
PARTNER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND TEACHERS

It is best if a man can say: "I did what I could and knew. I have a clear conscience." Honesty is the fact that you have for your profession sufficient knowledge and cultural heart that you can perform for the benefit of man.

(Joze Plecnik)

Is Peter's story my failure?