

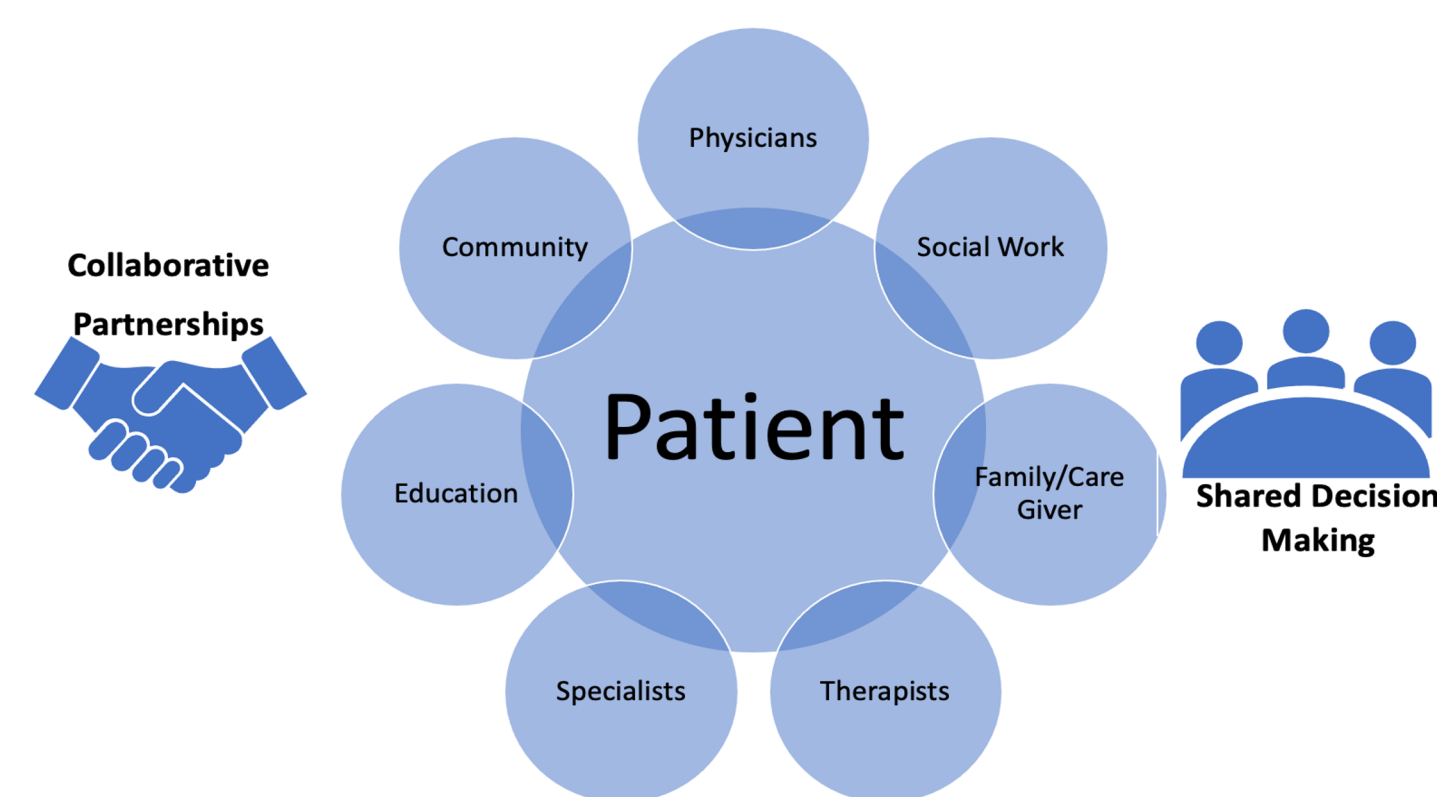
## Using Strengths-Based Communication to Promote Hope and Empowerment in Families of Children with Developmental Disabilities

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### Objective

To create a tool that can aid clinicians in effectively communicating with families of children with developmental disabilities in a way that provides them with hope and empowerment using strength-based approaches.

**Patient Centered Medical Homes** place the patient at the center of all decision making, services, and care coordination.



**Effective Communication** is the foundation for a therapeutic clinician-patient relationship.



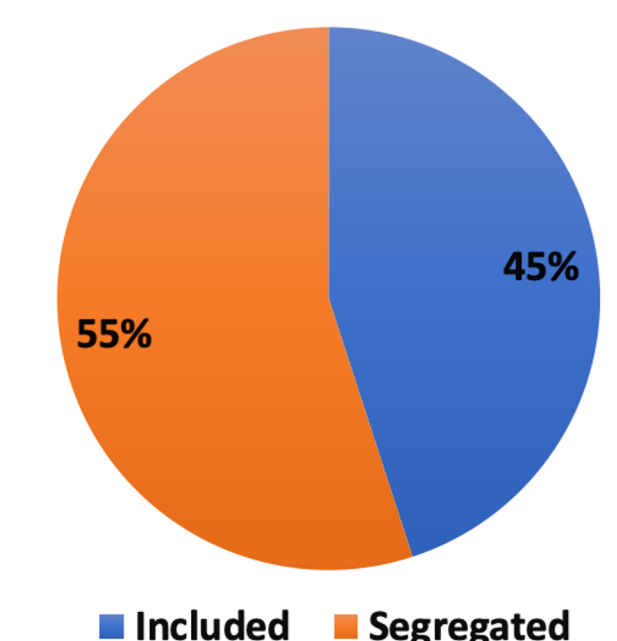
### Federal law

- IDEA Part B, applies to children 3-21
- Requires school districts to provide education to all eligible children with disabilities - "Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)" in the "Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)"
- Requires that children with disabilities be educated with their peers without disabilities to the **maximum extent appropriate**

### Included children are more likely to have:

- More opportunities for higher education
- Meaningful employment as adults
- Higher academic achievement
- Better communication skills

Rates of Inclusion in Public Schools in NJ

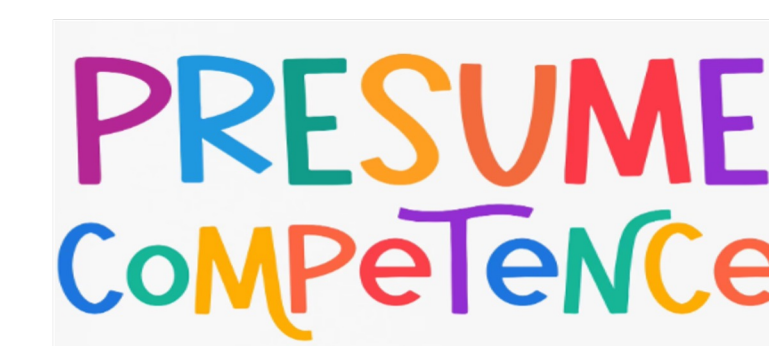


In 2020 in New Jersey, among all school-age students served under IDEA, the percentage who spent 80 % or more of their time in general classes (ie included) in regular schools is 45% with 55% of students segregated in special education environments.

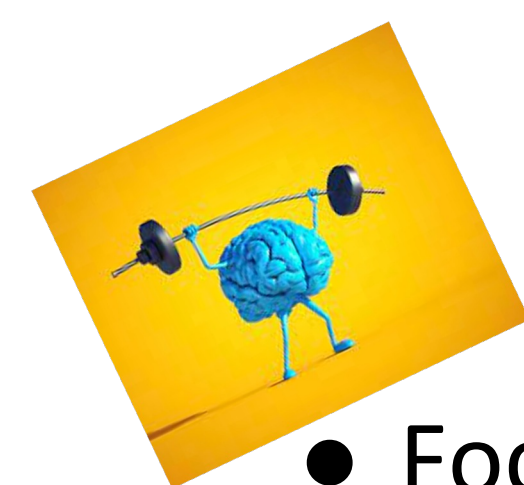
### Ways to Deliver a Diagnosis:

- Empower the caregiver- they are the **EXPERTS** on their child!
- Avoid blanket recommendations- No two children are the same!
- Discuss the potential...

"There was never mention of any strength or expectations we could envision for my child." **Parent testimony on diagnosis delivery**



### Social Inclusion



### Strengths-Based Care

- Focused on the whole person and their environment
- Highlights strengths instead of deficits
- Promotes resilience
- Sees the dignity and worth of the person
- Is culturally sensitive
- Uses listening, empathy, and questions



Helping families build **connections** and promote **inclusive education**

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Daniel Habib- <https://youtu.be/MZEUL7pUmY>