

Parents Partnering with Providers

By: Thuy Nguyen

As parents, we play a crucial role as partners in decision-making when it comes to our children's healthcare. This is more evident when you have a child with a special healthcare need,



because doctor visits and procedures seem to be a part of your daily life. Ponder this question for a second, who knows your children better than you? Most likely, your response would be nobody. It's vitally important for parents to learn how to partner with health care providers to make sure their children's health needs are met.

In the latest national survey, from the *United States Maternal and Child Health Bureau*: 67% of families in Louisiana, who had a child with a special health care need, felt like they were partners in shared decision-making for their children's optimum health. The national average sits at 70%.

Below are some resources that gives you wonderful tips on building and improving that partnership with your child's health care team.

Family Voices National Center for Family/Professional Partnerships has a publication on *Partnering with Your Child's Provider*. This information was especially developed for parents caring for a child with special health care needs. This publication can be found on the **Family Voices** website at: http://www.fv-ncfpp.org/files/4414/2149/5755/ParentsPartnering_01-16-2015r.pdf

Partnering with Your Child's Provider has information on a wide variety of topics that can help parents learn how to build effective partnerships with their child's health care providers. Parents can learn how to prepare for an office visit, talk with the child's provider and learn more after the visit.

More information about **Family Voices** and other publications can be found at: <http://www.familyvoices.org/>



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