

The Six Principles of Partnership

To create a *consistent philosophy and language* of partnership among staff and stakeholders, the Office of Families and Children has established the Six Principles of Partnership as the *foundation for how our team works together and with our partners*.

Principle 1: Everyone Desires Respect

This principle suggests that all people have value and a right to have some control over their lives. True partnership is impossible without mutual respect.

Principle 2: Everyone Needs to be Heard

This principle asks us to aside our needs and agenda and listen with a sincere desire to truly understand others' perspective before communicating our own view.

Principle 3: Everyone has Strengths

This principle means that all people have personal resources that, if recognized and utilized, can provide the raw material for solutions and future success.

Principle 4: Judgments Can Wait

This principle asks us to become aware of the assumptions we make about others and their situations.

Principle 5: Partners Share Power

This principle recognizes that power differentials create obstacles to real partnership. Whoever has more power in the relationship has the responsibility to balance the difference in power.

Principle 6: Partnership is a Process

This principle recognizes that each of the six principles is a part of a greater whole. Each principle supports and strengthens the others. We must have the intention to put them into practice.



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