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# Family-Centered Service for Children With Cerebral Palsy and Their Families: A Review of the Literature

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### Abstract

Pediatric neurologists and other specialists working with children with cerebral palsy or other disabilities play important roles in providing services in ways that make a difference in the lives of these children and their families. This article defines family-centered service and outlines a conceptual framework of the premises and principles underlying this approach to service delivery. Research evidence supporting family-centered service is presented for child, parent/family and service system outcomes, with a focus on community-based rehabilitation or health care services. The research evidence shows strong support for family-centered service in promoting the psychosocial well-being of children and their parents and in leading to increased satisfaction with services. There is less evidence for other outcomes. It is recommended that all service providers assess their beliefs and behaviors about family-centered service.



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