Parents as Partners in the Health Plan

Denver Metro Community Parent Resource Center
Lori Parker, Parent Advisor & Community Outreach

Walk with Me as a Parent: Elementary
- Healthy and Disabled
- IEP: Educationally Focused
- Health Plan: minimal part of IEP
- Health Plan: "Owned" by School Nurse

Walk with Me: Middle School
- Medically Fragile
- IEP: Educational Progress impacted by Health
- Health Plan: "Owned" by Special Education Staff
- Documentation in Back and Forth Book

Walk with Me: High School
- Medically Fragile and Disabled
- IEP: Educational Goals with accommodations and modifications
- Health Plan: "Owned" by IEP Team
- Active School involvement in health care

Personal Care System

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN): "...those who have or are at increased risk for a chronic, physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally."
Department of Health and Human Services
Walk with Me as a Professional

Parents as Partners in the Health Plan

“Walk in front of me, I may not follow; walk behind me I may not lead; walk with me and be my child’s ally.”

- Open the Door
- Discuss Your Partnership on behalf of the Child
- Recognize the Parent’s Expertise (Their Child)
- Offer Your Expertise (Education)
- Co-Create ALL Plans
- Give Parents Real and Meaningful Roles in their Children’s Education

Denver Metro Community Parent Resource Center

• Mentor parents to become independent advocates for their children and in turn teach self-advocacy to their children.
• Outreach to under-served groups to identify families that have children with disabilities that need information, support and services.
• Parent advising by phone, email or by appointment
• Provide workshops to parents and professionals to provide information and skills on different topics

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