DIGNITY & DISABILITY

This post highlights considerations for being the best practitioner you can be while supporting chidren with disabilities.

BARTON LAB CONTACT: BARTONLABVU@GMAIL.COM

WHAT IS PROFESSIONALISM

Professionalism requires you to practice ethically within your skill set and to treat all individuals with dignity and respect.

Your professional behavior influences how children with disabilities are perceived by themselves and others.

The following considerations provided are derived from ethical codes developed by organizations for practitioners who support children with disabilities.

RESPECTFUL CONVSERSATIONS

INSTEAD OF...

TRY THIS...

talking about or referring to children negatively in front of them or other children

assuming children will not understand what you are saying

talking about your feelings about a child or their abilities without data to support your conclusions model how each child can be treated as valuable and important

set an example for how to use kind words about all children

use <u>objectively collected</u>

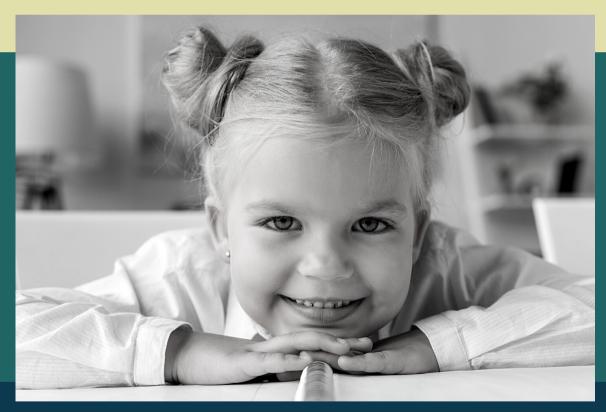
<u>data</u> to support

conversations about a

child's strengths and needs

CONFIDENTIALITY

Beyond the negative impact on the child's identity, talking about children with disabilities in front of others can violate the privacy of that child and their family.



Speak about children only with those authorized to know their information. Avoid talking about children in common areas to prevent unauthorized individuals from hearing the information.

KNOWING YOUR SKILL SET

Practicing within your skill set is best for the children you work with. Trying to use unfamiliar practices and procedures without supervision can result in harm for you and the child.

When you need to do something outside of your skill set, ask for support before practicing with a child or family. Support may include asking someone to supervise or coach you, roleplaying with a supervisor or mentor, asking for additional training or resources, etc.



Check in with yourself to understand your strengths and needs. Participate in ongoing professional development to maintain skills and acquire new ones.

RESOURCES

Every Child Belongs

Working With Children With Special Needs

Virtual Lab School: Professionalism

<u>Division of Early Childhood Code of</u>
<u>Ethics</u>

<u>Professional and Ethical Compliance</u> <u>Code for Behavior Analysts</u>

#BARTONLABSHARES