



Family Mentor Experience Agreement

MIND long term-trainees and fellows are required to participate in a "family mentor experience," which provides them with an opportunity to learn directly from a family. Working with a family allows trainees/fellows to acquire an appreciation for what it means to raise a child with special needs at home. Through a variety of experiences with the family, trainees and fellows will gain knowledge about social, environmental, medical, health service systems and the responsiveness of the systems, other family members, and the community to children with special needs and their families.

Trainees/fellows are matched with a families who have children with a neurodevelopmental or related disability and they participate in this in-depth program throughout the academic year.

The trainee/fellow (under the direction of MIND staff) and the family identify activities that will be mutually beneficial. This will include considering the competencies of the Individual Training Plan and the priorities of the family.

Activities include participation in routine home life, such as having a meal with the family, participating in grocery shopping, errands, attending birthday parties, or participating in recreational activities (e.g. swimming, soccer games). Activities also include interactions within the service systems, such as attending parent support groups, observing the child where services are being provided (e.g. school, childcare), attending physician appointments, and participating in IFSP (Individual Family Service Plan) or IEP (Individual Education Plan) meeting(s). Near the end of the experience with the family, trainees/fellows may provide respite care and assume responsibility for the child for brief periods of time.

Trainees/fellows maintain confidentiality about the families with whom they are matched. They will keep journals to record their activities and thoughts, which they will be encouraged to share with faculty and peers in a professional manner.

Trainees/fellows broaden their individual family mentor experiences by bringing issues to discuss at core seminars designed for trainees to shift their thinking from individual family issues to population and system issues.

(Trainee/Fellow)

(Family Member)

(Program Director)