Addressing Maternal Gatekeeping in Early Intervention

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We have no relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships in the products or services described, reviewed, evaluated or compared in this presentation.
Learner Outcomes

- Participants will be able to identify the importance of involving fathers in EI intervention services.
- Participants will be able to identify and describe the various types of maternal gatekeeping behaviors.
- Participants will be able to identify at least 3 strategies for working with coparenting dyads where maternal gatekeeping is problematic.
Early Intervention Best Practices

- Family Empowerment
- Natural Environment
- Routines-based intervention
- Family Coaching
- Strength-based approach
Dads & Early Intervention

Positive Developmental Outcomes

Participation in Interventions

Provider Challenges

Helps Moms

Differential needs of fathers
Defining Maternal Gatekeeping

Coparenting

Maternal Gatekeeping

History of MGK

Definition

“A set of complex behavioral interactions between parents, where mothers influence father involvement through their use of controlling, facilitative, and restrictive behaviors directed at father’s childrearing and interaction with children on a regular and consistent basis.” (Puhlman & Pasley, 2013, p. 177)
Dimensions of Maternal Gatekeeping

Control

High
- Family decision maker
- Dictates child-rearing and family management

Low
- No control over fathers
- Cooperative or father directed parenting

Encouragement

High
- Welcoming towards father
- High degree of warmth
- Supportive of fathering

Low
- No positivity towards fathers
- Absence of supportive behaviors
- Neutrality

Discouragement

High
- Overt criticism
- Negativity directed towards fathers
- Undermining and sarcastic attitudes

Low
- No negativity towards fathers
- Absence of discouraging behaviors
Polarized Gatekeepers

Let’s start with the “more clear” families

Facilitative Gateopener: High C, High E, Low D

Traditional Gateblocker: High C, Low E, High D

Passive Gatewelcomer: Low C, High E, Low D

Passive Gatesnubber: Low C, Low E, High D
Ambivalent Gatekeepers

Now the “more confusing” families

Confused GateManager
High C, High E, High D

Apathetic GateManager
High C, Low E, Low D

Opinionated GateWatcher
Low C, High E, High D

Invisible GateIgnorer
Low C, Low E, Low D

C= Control, E= Encouragement, D= Discouragement
Comments or questions?

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References


