



The Maine Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Family Interprofessional Team (FIT): Enhancing Training, Practice, Leadership and Community Connections through Interprofessional Family Centered Practice



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What is the Family Interprofessional Team?

The Family Interprofessional Team (FIT) was created to provide Maine LEND trainees with a real world, hands-on experience to utilize and implement the skills of leadership, family centered practice, and interprofessional teamwork in addition to the skills and perspectives of their own profession. The FIT program offers family centered, best practice, culturally competent evaluation and consultation services to children with autism (ASD), cerebral palsy (CP), genetic conditions, and other neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Interprofessional Opportunities

- LEND Trainees gain experience in learning from and working with each other in an interprofessional team format.
- The FIT provides a unique service that encompasses the elements of both family centered care and interprofessional education providing exemplary evaluations and consultations to the child/young adult and family.
- The Implementation of both family centered care and intprofessional education, encourages LEND trainees to focus on the skills of building relationships, increasing communication and the recognition of each family's strengths.

Family Interprofessional Team Progression

- Families are recruited through community connections, providers, and word of mouth.
- FIT coordinator establishes initial contact with family to determine interest
- A home visit is done by FIT Coordinator and another LEND faculty. At the home visit, needs and areas of focus are established through observation and interaction with child and parents or caregivers.
- Once the areas of focus are determined, a team of LEND trainees is created to respond to these concerns.
- The visit is scheduled with the family and the appointed team. At that visit through further observation and interaction with the family, the team establishes a course of action and creates a report that includes the recommendations of each discipline on the team.
- The report is then forwarded to the family by the FIT coordinator who follows up with the family to answer questions and/or determine the next course of action.

Benefits for Children and Families



*"The Fit team was a big help in assessing what we might need for adaptive equipment Tess would need in our new home. They were also helpful in her transition to a new school, as well as finding resources for parent support.
. J.R., parent of Tess.*



"The FIT allowed my son to have a multi-disciplinary assessment in his home— the place he is most comfortable. The team used his many strengths to overcome challenges. Each discipline offered creative solutions to support him in his community. Thank you LEND!" L.R., parent of FIT client Kevin (pictured above with his FIT Team)



"The FIT helped our family navigate a fractured system for accessing services. Our LEND trainee was truly our "family friend" and was an invaluable source of support; especially at our first IEP meeting". A.T., parent of Max

Community Inclusion and Participation



Fliers and references for FIT available upon request.