

To obtain a Shared Foundation for Practice, we recognize....

Evidence informed research that fits within our current community and cultural contexts

Our work is informed by evidence that suggests we collectively:

- Focus on people's **strengths**
- Strive to understand **diverse populations**
- Use a **trauma informed lens**
- Use **decolonizing** and **anti-oppressive** approaches
- Acknowledge **prenatal** and the **early years** as the foundation for human development
- See children, youth and families as the **experts** of their own lives
- Recognize the impact of the **Social Determinants of Health**
- Consider an **attachment lens** throughout the lifespan
- Strive to understand our **personal and professional biases**
- Use **self-reflection** to improve practice
- **Build on the successes** of others

Approaches that work together to support and surround all aspects of a child or youth's life

Wholistic approaches include:

- **Social, emotional, physical and spiritual** development
- **Supporting** children, youth and families in their communities and cultures
- Respecting and engaging **diverse models of community**
- Being **present, authentic** and **human**
- Recognition that each of us **define family differently**

Sharing resources, knowledge and expertise

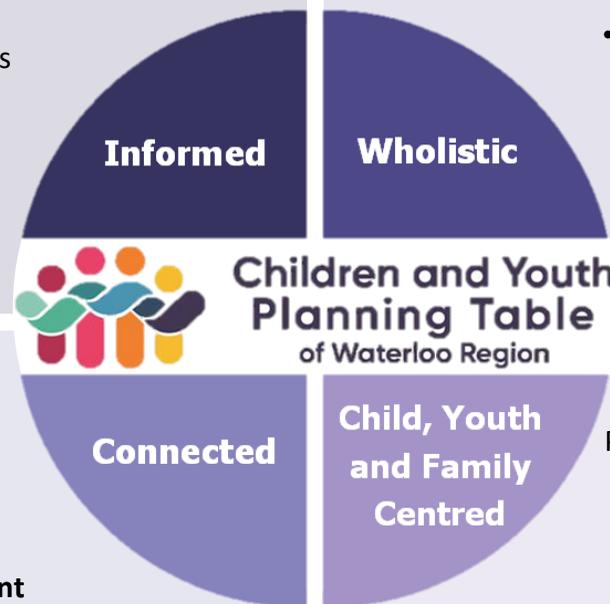
We cooperate and collaborate by:

- Using **respectful dialogue** and participating in **courageous conversations**
- Creating the conditions for **inter-agency consultations** and **joint engagement**
- **Promoting and referring** to the most appropriate service
- Ensuring services **move** with the child and family
- Creating **seamless transitions** between programs
- Providing **community wide learning** opportunities

Children, youth and families are the centre of our work

Putting children, youth and families at the centre of services means:

- Children, youth and families are **driving** the decisions
- Recognizing **power and privilege** inherent in service delivery
- **Authentically engage** children, youth, families and communities and **encourage self-determination**
- Giving every child and youth **opportunities** for quality learning and **connections** to caring adults
- Using **preventative** and **proactive** approaches
- Providing help at the **earliest stage possible**
- Having **flexible supports** during wait times and as long as needed
- Recognizing the impact of **family and community**
- Supporting children, youth and families to overcome **barriers**
- Ensuring services are **accessible**





Happy, healthy children and youth – today and tomorrow.

What is the Shared Foundation for Practice?

The Children and Youth Planning Table Shared Foundation for Practice includes...

Four shared principles for working
together with children, youth and
families in our community:

- **Child, Youth & Family Centred:** Children, youth and families are the centre of our work.
- **Connected:** Sharing resources, knowledge and expertise.
- **Informed:** Evidence informed research that fits within our current community and cultural contexts.
- **Wholistic:** Approaches that work together to support and surround all aspects of a child or youth's life.

Where did the Shared Foundation come from?

The Road to Shared Foundation

A Working Group of the Children and Youth Planning Table developed the 'Shared Foundation for Practice' to address the need for services and service providers to have a strong foundation through which they work together.

The recommended starting point was to develop a foundation of shared principles and guidelines with a focus on shared training and expertise based on a 4-quadrant Shared Foundation to reflect shared principles and guidelines.

Why do we want to use the Shared Foundation?

We believe using a Shared Foundation will:

- Improve services to children, youth and families.
- Contribute to more consistent service provision.
- Improve relationships among service providers.
- Increase knowledge and capacity.
- Foster more coordinated efforts.
- Increase accountability.
- Enhance our credence with government and funders.

How Do I Use the Shared Foundation?

There are a variety of ways the Children and Youth Planning Table partners are using the Shared Foundation for Practice. Here are some examples to get you started:

- ❖ Use the Shared Foundation as principles that guide your work.
- ❖ Participate in shared learning events in the community.
- ❖ Integrate the Shared Foundation into your meetings. Try labelling agenda items with the quadrant they best represent or include the Shared Foundation Wheel as a reminder to think about connections to the Shared Foundation during your meeting.
- ❖ Dialogue with other the Children and Youth Planning Table partners about using the Shared Foundation.
- ❖ Share with others any resources you have developed to use the Shared Foundation.
- ❖ Share your ideas with us of how you use the Shared Foundation or how we can help you use it better.