

The Ten Commandments For Families with Children Who Have Special Needs

(Kathleen Jordan & Maureen Shaw)

We shall be the advocates for our child and family and will endeavour to respect and reinforce in the view of others, the uniqueness and individuality of all concerned.

We shall acknowledge the humanness of all the professionals serving and supporting this family, and remember that they too are unique, no better or worse than the rest of us and who have chosen this way to make their living.

We shall endeavour to regard the professional as our equal, participating **ACTIVELY** in the partnership.

We shall accept the responsibility for our child and shall assist and support them in attending to their own best interests.

We shall recognize the professionals as resources and shall choose those professionals whose actions and attitude demonstrate a respect for the child and the family.

We shall accentuate the positive and keep the negative in perspective.

We shall ensure that when contracting for service that the service goals are focused on the child and the family receiving these services and that the goals are stated in a clear and precise manner.

We shall be persistent in our efforts to access accurate, complete and unbiased information in an attempt to make informed decisions on behalf of and with our child.

We shall recognize our vulnerability, sensitivity and emotional involvement and make an effort to direct our anger and frustrations appropriately.

We shall endeavour to develop a sense of humour, to celebrate and to care for our families and ourselves in order to participate fully in all aspects of community life.

