

Measuring family-professional partnership in early intervention for children with developmental delay

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Introduction

- Family-professional partnership is the foundation of family-centered practice in early intervention.
- Partnership is defined as mutually supportive interactions between families and professionals, and focused on the needs of children and families.
- This study is the first to investigate family-professional partnership in early intervention in Taiwan.

Purpose

- To measure satisfaction about partnership for families and professionals in early intervention in the past year.

Participants

- 40 families of child with developmental delay and 76 early intervention professionals. [Table 1 for families] [Table 2 for professionals]

Table 1 Family Demographics

Variables	n	%
Relation with child		
Father	5	13
Mother	34	85
Other	1	2
Educational background		
Under senior high school	7	17
College graduate	14	35
University degree	7	17
Above Master degree	12	30
Served place		
Kindergarten	8	20
Case management center	28	70
Child development center	3	8
Other	1	2

Table 2 Professionals Demographics

Variables	n	%
Gender		
Male	3	4
Female	73	96
Background		
Physical therapist	3	4
Occupational therapist	4	6
Speech therapist	3	4
Social worker	16	21
Educator	49	64
Others	1	1
Work place		
Case management center	5	7
Child development center	55	72
Social welfare foundation	16	21

Measures

- The Chinese version of the Family-Professional Partnership Scale (FPPS-C) is a 18-item questionnaire for family (FPPS-F-C) and professional (FPPS-P-C). It is a 5-point scale that range from 1 to 5 (1=very dissatisfied, 5=very satisfied). [Figure 1 for example]
- The 18 items involve two primary subscales: Child-Focused Relationship (Item 1 to 9) and Family-Focused Relationship (Item 10-18), and five domains: Respect, Trust, Skill, Equality Communication and Commitment.

Figure 1 Example of FPPS with Professional Version and Family Version

Family Version (Child-Focused Relationship)		Professional Version (Child-Focused Relationship)	
How satisfied are you that your child's teacher....	Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Neither, Satisfied, Very Satisfied	How satisfied are you with the way that you...	Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Neither, Satisfied, Very Satisfied
1. Helps you gain skills or information to get what your child needs.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	1. Help _____ gain skills or information to get what his/her child needs.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Has the skills to help your child succeed.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Have the skills to help _____'s child succeed.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Provides services that meet the individual needs of your child.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Provide services that meet the individual needs of _____'s child.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Speaks up for your child's best interests when working with other service providers.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Speak up for _____'s child's best interests when working with other service providers.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Family-Focused Relationship		Family-Focused Relationship	
How satisfied are you that your child's teacher....	Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Neither, Satisfied, Very Satisfied	How satisfied are you with the way that you...	Very Dissatisfied, Dissatisfied, Neither, Satisfied, Very Satisfied
13. Protects your family's privacy.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	13. Protect _____'s privacy.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
14. Shows respect for your family's values and beliefs.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	14. Show respect for _____'s values and beliefs.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
15. Listens without judging your child or family.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	15. Listen without judging _____, his/her child, and family.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
16. Is a person you can depend on and trust	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	16. Are a person on whom _____ can depend and trust.	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Data Analysis

- Full scales, two subscales and 18 items of FPPS-F-C and FPPS-P-C was analyzed by descriptive statistics.

Results

- Partnership satisfaction scores were 4.16 for family and 4.17 for professionals. [Table 3]
- Both groups reported higher satisfaction with Family-focused Relationship than Child-Focused Relationship. [Table 4]
- For the Family-Focused Relationship, family scored lower than professionals on 8 out of 9 items. [Figure 2]

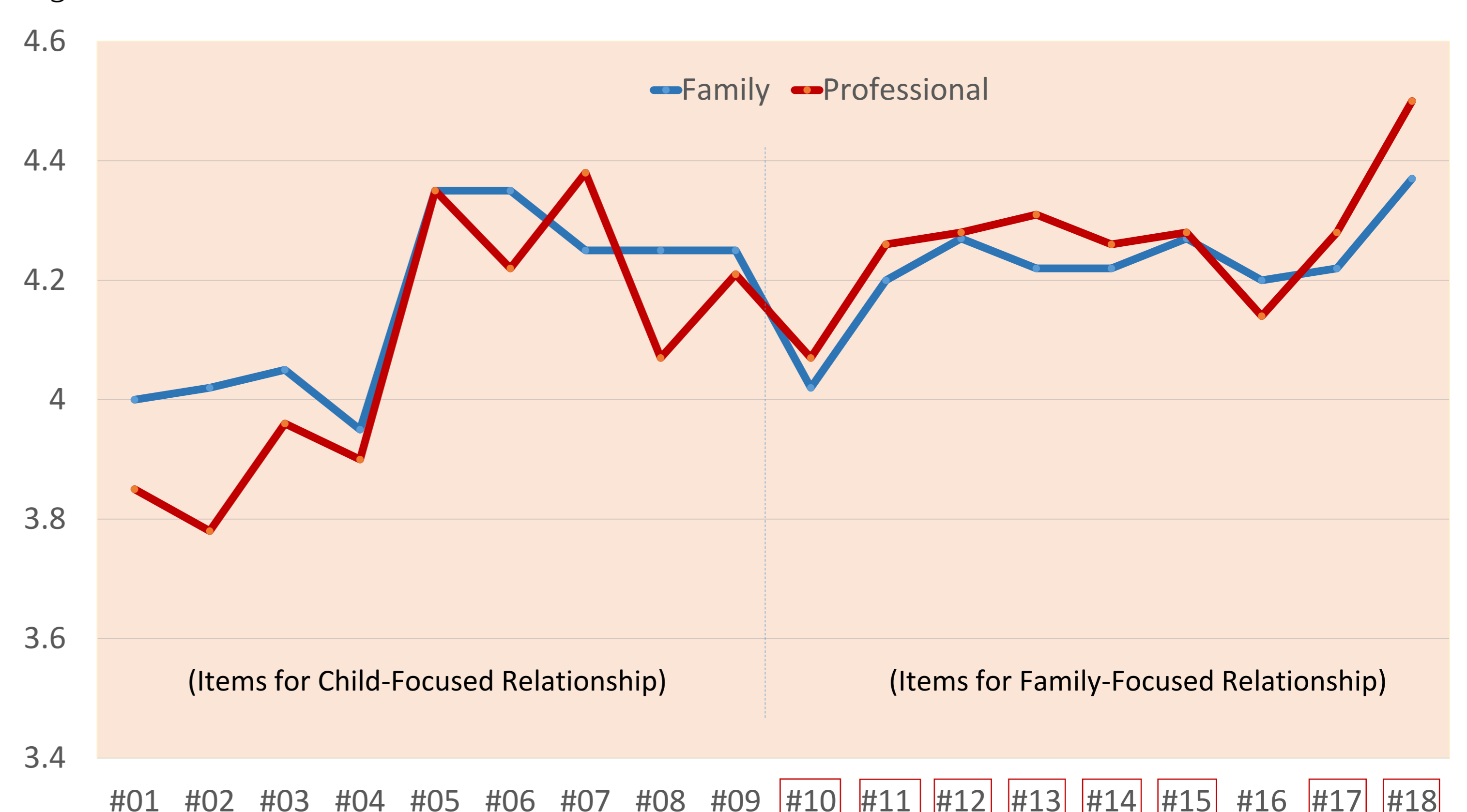
Table 3 Partnership satisfaction with families and professionals

Group	N	Mean(SD)
Family	40	4.16(0.89)
Professionals	76	4.17(0.35)

Table 4 Two subscales of FPPS-C between families and professionals

	Child-Focused Relationship		Family-Focused Relationship	
	N	Mean(SD)	N	Mean(SD)
Family	40	4.16(0.89)	40	4.22(0.87)
Professionals	76	4.07(0.38)	76	4.27(0.40)

Figure 2 Satisfaction scores for each item



Item 10	Is honest, even when there is bad news to give.
Item 11	Keeps your child safe when your child is in his/her care.
Item 12	Uses words that you understand.
Item 13	Protects your family' s privacy.
Item 14	Shows respect for your family' s values and beliefs.
Item 16	Is a person you can depend on and trust
Item 17	Pays attention to what you have to say.
Item 18	Is friendly.

Conclusions

- Family and professionals were generally satisfied in the partnership.
- For the Family-Focused Relationship, family partnership satisfaction tended to be lower than professionals.
- The FPPS provides a snapshot for professionals to understand family' s satisfaction with partnership.

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