Strategies To Engage Families in Research

> **I would like to become involved with research (i.e. biomedical or clinical research) related to my child's diagnosis.**

> **I would like to involve family partners in my clinical and/or biomedical research project.**

WHO should I contact?

Contact provincial/national childhood disability networks to connect with

- Contact biomedical and clinical researchers to see who you could work with

- Advertise your research at local conferences, and institutional newsletters

WHAT should I do?

Have an open mind with honest communication

- Learn about the skills required to conduct research
- Create a 1-page letter outlining your interests and skills

- Provide regular project updates
- Value your family partner's opinion!

WHERE should I go?

Local conferences, Facebook groups, university websites or childhood disability research networks such as CHILD-BRIGHT, CanChild, & KBHN

- Explore support groups for families on Facebook who are interested in research

- Attend community events to reach out to family partners interested in research

WHEN should I start?

At any point of the research project!

- Ask about project timeline
- Share your availabilities

- Involve your family partner in all project stages

WHY should I partner up?

Bridge the gaps between research, either clinical or biomedical, and families

- To learn the behind the scenes of research
- To broaden your understanding of your child's disease

- To learn new strategies to disseminate results
- To ensure findings are meaningful

HOW can I find a partner?

Contact people who have experience in family engagement
Schedule a first meeting to discuss what this partnership could look like

- Talk with biomedical and clinical researchers about their research

- Partner with a researcher familiar with family engagement to help you build such a relationship