



Figure 1-2. This diagram illustrates key interprofessional competencies essential to pediatric care.

children, their families, and others to ensure support and carryover between all settings, including the home, school, and community. Considerable evidence suggests that trust in clinicians is based upon (1) the clinician's technical competence, (2) respect for the family's/client's views, (3) sharing of relevant information, and (4) the client's own confidence in managing his or her illness.^{2,3} Because parents play an essential role in their children's care, empowering children and their families to help manage health- and education-related issues through advocacy and self-advocacy are key elements of building trust in pediatrics.

As critical thinkers, pediatric therapists appreciate that interprofessional collaboration is *process oriented*. Shared decision making is an ongoing effort that requires continual assessment and critical input from all involved in care. Collaborative efforts ensure that children are engaged in *developmentally appropriate* learning activities and that therapists use educational strategies and behavioral assessments that guide their interactions with all involved. These efforts should be well integrated across the learning continuum and sensitive to differences in settings (eg, home, community, clinic, school).

To facilitate effective interprofessional collaboration, professionals need a common language and understanding

of professional roles and responsibilities. Most importantly, team members must work toward common outcomes that address the goals of the child and family.

One framework, the National Interprofessional Competency (NIC) framework, describes competencies required for effective *interprofessional care*.⁴ The NIC framework suggests key competencies foundational to collaborative decision making that honors the knowledge, skills, values, and experience of all involved. Figure 1-2 illustrates these key competencies deemed essential to interprofessional care.

This interprofessional framework offers key concepts that can be adapted to pediatric settings⁴:

1. **Role Clarification:** All team members must understand their own role, as well as the roles of others on their team. Respecting each other's roles and knowledge contributes to establishing and meeting appropriate goals.
2. **Child-/Family-/School-Centered Care:** Team members must value the input and engagement of each person, including the child, family members, community members, and others involved in the child's life.