

The Guiding Principles of IFS



These guiding principles give life and form to Integrating Family Services' vision and mission.

1. **Promote the well-being of Vermont's children, youth and families.** Policies, services and service providers are sensitive and responsive to the unique aspects of each family.
2. **Build communities' capacity to provide a full range of resources in a flexible and timely way that is responsive to the needs of children and youth (prenatal through age 22) and families.**
3. **Focus on the individual and the family.** Understand the child's needs in the context of his/her family.
4. **Ensure that families' voices inform processes, plans and policies.**
5. **Adopt the Strengthening Families approach.** Strengthening Families' five protective factors guide our work.
6. **Invest in a skilled, competent and valued workforce.** People working with children, youth and families need training, support and adequate compensation.
7. **Balance innovation with families' experiences, research and data to inform decisions about how to best use available resources and achieve positive outcomes.**
8. **Assure continuous quality improvement.** Data informs decisions and drives change at the state and local level.
9. **Promote a common language, shared decision-making and cross-disciplinary team work.**