



Skill Development at Children's Therapy Network utilizing the CLTS Funded Empowerment and Self-Determination code

Official definition from the State of Wisconsin: Empowerment and self-determination supports help the participant acquire skills to exercise control and responsibility over their other supportive services. Exercising control and responsibility over supportive services helps the participant and their family build an interdependent care network within their community and promotes self-determination. This service includes education, training, and events that help the participant and family develop self-advocacy skills, exercise civil rights, and acquire the skills needed manage their supportive services. Education and training may be provided for the participant and/or their parent(s), unpaid caregiver(s), and/or legal representative(s).

CTN Description of this service: We help children with autism and other types of neurodivergence gain a strong understanding of their unique profile as it relates to engaging in their community, other supportive services and learning environments. We do this by creating sessions that are problem solving in nature, allowing children to first create understanding their need or barrier to accessing their desired environment/activity. In doing this it allows the child to move from a model of “the world is happening to them” to a beginning understanding of their unique place in this world. From there the provider helps the child formulate self-advocacy supports and strategies that they can utilize when engaging in their desired environments and activities. Lastly, the provider stays present through follow up sessions designed to use feedback of the child's self-advocacy experience to develop a deeper “tool box” of self-advocacy skills. When appropriate, parents will be provided with the same level of problem solving and training in order to be a natural support for their child in their self-advocacy journey.

Children who may be appropriate for skill development through CLTS funding include those working on:

- Understanding how their neurodivergent brain, diagnosis of autism or ADHD impacts their ability to do the routines of their day with the goal of working together to problem solve supportive strategies the child can use or advocate for with other supportive individuals in their world (school, friends, etc)
- Gaining understanding of their social relationships, and the way they intend to fit into their social groups, accessing language and other tools in order to find their own individualized success in this endeavor
- Integrating known regulation tools into their day, forming the understanding of how to add these tools into their day and practicing ways to advocate for the use of these tools with their other support providers.
- These are just a few examples of ways skill developers can support clients through CLTS funding!