

What qualities do providers and families look for in a good Direct Support Professional (DSP)?

Compassion
Heart matters. A great
DSP cares deeply
about the person they
support.

Respect
Respecting dignity and
promoting choice—even for
those with total care needs.

Reliability
Families and
providers need to
know they can
count on you—
every time.

More than anything—families want to know their loved one is loved.

Good Communication
Speak clearly. Listen
carefully. Keep everyone
informed—especially
families.

Patience
Stay calm. Meet
people where they
are. Never rush or
react harshly.

Attention to Detail Notice the little things. Small changes can signal big needs.

Cultural Respect Honor the individual's identity, beliefs, language, and customs. Willingness to Learn Stay teachable. Needs change, and so should our skills.

Team Player
Care is a team
sport. Cooperate,
coordinate, and
uplift others.