COLLABORATION FOR ECE PROGRAM SUCCESS!

How Community Collaboration Can Help Your Program Grow

Today's Outcomes

- Define collaboration
- Identify qualities which successfully start and sustain collaborations
- Prepare for establishing or improving collaborations supporting their own program

WHAT IS COLLABORATION?

Definition
Definition of Collaboration

- to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor
- to cooperate with or willingly assist an enemy of one's country and especially an occupying force
- to cooperate with an agency or instrumentality with which one is not immediately connected

Reference

Types of Collaboration

- Internal
  - Co-workers
  - Parents and Families
  - Work Team: Same age group, same position, etc.

- External
  - Stakeholders will vary
  - Between programs, centers, providers
  - Community agencies
  - Organizations
  - Local or national

POLL QUESTION!
QUALITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

First Things First…

Qualities for Successful Collaboration

- Relevance
- Relationship
- Reputation
- Resources
Qualities for Successful Collaboration

- **Goal**: Purpose
  - More than just funding
  - Common and agreed upon
  - If all else fails…

- **Resources**: Similar weight
  - Clearly stated
  - Aligns to purpose

- **Negotiate**: Strengths vs. Weakness
  - Fit or Gap?

- **Give and Take**: Outline in advance

---

**Relationships**
- Doesn’t happen overnight!
- Nurturing relationships are critical
- Establish boundaries
- Set timelines
- Communication schedule
- Culture of support
- Review and assess
- Keep goal as guide!

---

Successful Collaboration Never Ends

---

Resources:
Successful Collaboration Never Ends

Resource

Awareness: We become part of a larger entity with a shared goal or purpose.

Motivation: Gain consensus when solving problems or creating solutions.

Self-synchronization: individually decide what is doable.
Successful Collaboration Never Ends

Collaboration Life-cycle

Participation: All parties participate together - no one is left behind - two-way street!

Mediation: We work hard to find a middle point where we both can be positive.

Reciprocity: We share and expect our partners to share in return.
Successful Collaboration Never Ends

**Reflection:** We look back at work done and consider alternatives, improvements or celebrations.

**Engagement:** We are proactive and do not wait for something to happen; we keep moving forward.

**Reminders for Successful Collaboration**
For those already in a collaborative relationship…

- Do you have a common goal that all stakeholders can name and understand?

- Are all resources being employed? Are all stakeholders contributing equally?
For those already in a collaborative relationship…

- Are you stopping regularly to measure success and assess challenges?

For those already in a collaborative relationship…

- What are the next steps for our collaboration?
THANK YOU!
Mary Muhs
Department Chair
Early Childhood Education
Rasmussen College
mary.muhs@rasmussen.edu
www.rasmussen.edu