Collaborations
Annotated Bibliography

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  - Research Assistants: Ali Chrisler & Shana Simkin
  - Project Director: Tamara Halle
A meeting entitled *Collaborations in Early Care and Education: Establishing a Research Agenda* was held on May 24-25, 2010.

**Goals of the meeting:**

- Defining and measuring collaborations
- Creating a framework for studying effects of collaboration on individual programs
- Understanding parameters to examine links between collaboration and outcomes for children and families
Follow-up Activities to the Meeting

- Logic Model
- Annotated Bibliography
- Measures Compendium
Overview of Annotated Bibliography

- Selection Criteria
  - Articles/books published in/after 2000 (except for some seminal works suggested by OPRE)
  - Inclusion of materials from various disciplines and authors

- Emphasis on the following components of the literature:
  - Primary questions explored
  - Key elements of collaboration examined
  - Methodology
  - Outcomes
  - Study Limitations
Summary of Articles/Books Included

- 28 annotations completed

Methodologies*
  - Descriptive studies (13)
  - Qualitative studies (8)
  - Quantitative studies (10)
  - Program evaluations (2)

Classification of articles by discipline
  - Early Care and Education (17)
  - Education (1)
  - Social Work (1)
  - Health (2)
  - Mental Health (1)
  - Administration, Systems or Policy (2)
  - General Human Service Sector (4)

* Multiple methodologies could be used within a single study
Primary Questions Explored in the Collaboration Literature

- Defining and operationalizing collaboration
- Frameworks for collaboration
- History of collaborations
- Motives for collaboration
- Influence of policy on collaborations
Primary Questions Explored in the Collaboration Literature, cont’d

- Financing collaborations and the intersection of funding and resources
- Comparisons of pre-k, child care, and Head Start partnerships
- Evaluation of collaborations
  - Outcomes of collaborations
  - Facilitators, barriers & lessons learned
Key Elements of Collaboration Examined

- **Structure**
  - Complexity
  - Components
  - Scale

- **Infrastructure**
  - Context
  - Management

- **Governance**

- **Relationships**
  - Autonomy v. Mutuality
  - Trust
  - Communication
  - Dynamics

- **Incentives**

- **Challenges**

- **Measurement**
Collaboration Frameworks

One-quarter of the articles identified frameworks which operationalized the constructs of collaboration by:

- **Describing the stakeholders engaged in collaboration**
  - Collaboration among professionals; among professionals and government systems; among professionals and clients or other individuals

- **Describing the intensity of collaborative relationships**
  - Included levels of collaboration ranging from communication amongst groups to complete organizational restructuring
  - Authors varied on whether their framework was hierarchical
Findings

- General findings
  - Collaboration is both a process and an outcome and entails continuous change
  - Relationships and partnerships leverage resources
  - Collaboration designs vary according to context, needs, and policy environments
  - Research must inform collaborative approaches
Findings, cont’d

- **Incentives to Collaborate**
  - The opportunity to expand services through shared resources (e.g. wrap-around care, comprehensive services)
  - Inclusive representation of stakeholders’ views & concerns
  - Inventing new ways to respond to social problems

- **Empirically Supported Outcomes of Collaboration**
  - Documented growth in the number and complexity of inter-agency relationships and community network ties
  - Increased access to early childhood program care
  - Improved program quality
For More Information

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