

Child Care & Early Education RESEARCH CONNECTIONS

A partnership of the National Center for Children in Poverty, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, the Office of Child Care, and the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation

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Early Care and Education Collaboration

A Key Topic Resource List

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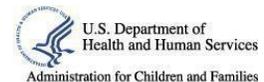
Research Connections conducted a comprehensive search of its collection for resources focused on early care and education (ECE) collaboration. This Key Topic Resource List includes an overview of the ECE collaboration literature, as well as a listing of selected resources on the topic.

Search results are grouped into three broad areas:

- Defining, Measuring, and Evaluating Collaboration
- Collaboration and Early Care and Education Programs
- Evaluations of Collaborations in Early Care and Education

From the many results, *Research Connections* selected a limited number of resources of various types including reports and papers, executive summaries, and reviews. Selection criteria included topic relevance and relatively recent publication (from 1999- 2010).

Within each category, resources are organized according to publisher type and publication date. *Research Connections'* short descriptions are included for each resource on the following list. For complete citations, which include abstracts and full text for some resources, click on the titles.



Overview:

Expansions in public funding for subsidized child care, Head Start, and state preschool initiatives have resulted from public concerns over the need to strengthen children's school readiness and to provide early care and education as a support for working parents. Despite growth in funding, gaps in early care and education services persist. Federal, state, and local policymakers are increasingly looking at how various early childhood programs intersect and how to coordinate services to better serve families.

While the federal government encourages partnerships involving Head Start and subsidized child care, states and localities have the flexibility to coordinate programs. States and localities are experimenting with ways to coordinate services to maximize resources, avoid duplication of effort, improve the quality of programs, and offer full-day services to support working families. Research in this area explores state and local approaches to coordination and collaboration of early care and education services and shares lessons learned.*

Research questions on early care and education program collaboration include:

- What are the promising approaches for collaboration among early childhood education programs at the state and local level?
- What are the challenges in coordinating and integrating early childhood funding streams? What strategies can be used to effectively align separate funding streams?
- What is the benefit of offering public-prekindergarten, Head Start or child care through a mixed-delivery model (e.g. offering pre-k in community-based centers, Head Start settings, and schools)? How are states and localities implementing this and what lessons have they learned?
- Does collaboration among programs improve the quality of care and help support positive child and family outcomes?
- How does collaboration among programs affect the programs themselves?
- How can the successful collaboration of programs be measured in a useful way? What are the processes that support successful collaboration?

*This Key Topic Resource List largely includes resources on the collaboration of early care and education programs. For more information on the coordination of early childhood services across systems (i.e. health, mental health, etc.) please see the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems resource list:

<http://www.researchconnections.org/files/childcare/keytopics/KTRL-ECCS.pdf>

Also see Child Trends annotated bibliography on collaborations (*forthcoming*) for further resources.

Acknowledgements:

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Defining, Measuring, and Evaluating Collaborations

Journals

Thomson, Ann Marie; Perry, James L.; Miller, Theodore K. (2009). [Conceptualizing and measuring collaboration](#) *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 19(1), 23-56

A study of the construct validity of a multidimensional model of collaboration from the questionnaire responses of 440 AmeriCorps directors

Hicks, Darrin; Larson, Carl E.; Nelson, Christopher; Olds, David; Johnston, Erik. (2008). [The influence of collaboration on program outcomes: The Colorado Nurse-Family Partnership](#). *Evaluation Review* 32 (5) 453-477.

A study of the relationships between family attrition in the Nurse Family Partnerships program and participant age, education, employment, mental health, mastery of program content, site level collaborative quality and process quality, as well as number of nurse visits and nurse attrition, from 2,824 participants at six sites in Colorado from 1999 through 2003.

Frey, Bruce B.; Lohmeier, Jill H.; Lee, Stephen W.; Tollefson, Nona. (2006). [Measuring collaboration among grant partners](#) *American Journal of Evaluation*, 27(3), 383-392

An overview of the development, display, and reliability, among 10 grant partners, of the Levels of Collaboration Scale

Thomson, Ann Marie, Perry, James L. (2006). [Collaboration processes: Inside the black box](#) *Public Administration Review*, 66, 20-32

A framework to assist public administrators in their collaboration with partners

Chavis, David M. (2001). [The paradoxes and promise of community coalitions](#). *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 29 (2), 309-320.

A discussion of the characteristics of community coalitions as organizations that can promote community change, protect the status quo, and empower grassroots leadership and marginalized groups through their ability to transform conflict into community capacity.

Other

Coffman, Julia, (2007). [A framework for evaluating systems initiatives](#) Des Moines, IA: Build Initiative.

A review of the state of evaluations of improvement initiatives for early childhood development systems that foster collaboration between family support, early intervention, health, and care and education services, based on the debate and discussion at the Build Initiative's Evaluation Symposium in April 2007

Collaboration and Early Care and Education Programs

Government

United States. Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2003). [Child support, child care and Head Start collaboration: Innovations & ideas](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement.

A description of the efforts of six states to promote collaboration between Head Start, Child Support, and subsidized child care programs, subsequent to receiving demonstration grants from the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE)

California Head Start-State Collaboration Office. (2002). [Full-day, full-year early care and education partnerships: Recommendations of the Collaborative Partners Work Group](#) Sacramento: California Department of Education.

An overview of the Collaborative Partners Work Group (CPWG) and their role in facilitating partnerships between early childhood education and care providers to help transition into full-day, full-year programs

Journals

Goble, Carla B.; Horm, Diane M. (2009). [Infant-toddler services through community collaboration: Oklahoma's early childhood initiatives](#) Zero to Three, 29(6), 18-22

Descriptions of Oklahoma's universal pre-kindergarten, expanded and enhanced comprehensive integrated services for infants, toddlers and families, and various workforce capacity building initiatives each of which uses collaborative systems to provide direct service to young children and their families

McWayne, C., Broomfield, M., Sidoti, J., & Camacho, N. (2008). [Facilitators of and challenges to interagency collaboration: An early childhood perspective](#) NHSA Dialog, 11(2), 90-109

Findings from a process evaluation of an interagency collaboration between an Early Head Start program and a residential drug treatment agency serving low-income families in a large northeastern city

Kagan, Sharon Lynn, Neuman, Michelle J. (2003). [Integrating early care and education](#) Educational Leadership, 60(7), 58-63

An examination of the challenges and need of creating a comprehensive infrastructure and systems approach to early child care and education

Kiron, Ellen, (2003). [Blending early care and education funds: Issues, opportunities, and strategies](#) (Research Brief Vol. 1 No. 2). Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Center for Children and Families.

A qualitative study on the motivations, mechanisms, and strategies of the financial partnerships being developed between early education providers

Sandfort, Jodi R.; Seldon, Sally C. (2001). [Blurring the boundaries: Local collaborations among Head Start, preschool, and child care programs](#) Policy & Practice of Public Human Services, 59(1), 18-23

A discussion of trends in the partnerships between local Head Start, child care and other early childhood education and care programs, with strategies for using public policy to facilitate the creation of local partnerships

Universities and Research Organizations

Schilder, Diane, Kiron, Ellen; Elliott, Kimberly (2003). [Early care and education partnerships: State actions and local lessons](#) Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Center for Children and Families.

An inquiry into the nature and durability of partnerships between early childhood education and care providers and community organizations that support parents' child care needs

Sandfort, Jodi R. (2001). [The context of early childhood collaboration: A comparison of New York and Virginia](#) Lynchburg, VA: Lynchburg College, School of Business and Economics.

A brief report comparing the early childhood policy and programming in two states, highlighting how particular state policy contexts impact the collaborations between Head Start, prekindergarten, preschool and child care programs

Gasko, John W.; Guthrow, Kaitlin. [n.d.] [Community-based school readiness integration partnerships: Promoting sustainable collaborations](#) Houston, TX: University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Children's Learning Institute.

A discussion of the need for partnerships between state legislative agencies and community organizations to promote children's school readiness

Other

Schulman, Karen; Blank, Helen. (2009). [Building community collaboration to support early learning: Local councils for early care and education](#) Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.

A discussion of the need for local-level organizations to complement federal and state early childhood education and care collaborative efforts, including recommendations for the structure and role of such local councils

Wat, Albert; Gayl, Chrisanne. (2009). [Beyond the school yard: Pre-k collaborations with community-based partners](#) Washington, DC: Pre-K Now.

A discussion of the benefits of and promising practices in collaborations between public prekindergarten programs and community-based child care and early education providers, with policy recommendations to promote collaborations

Stebbins, Helene; Scott, L. Carol. (2007). [Better outcomes for all: Promoting partnerships between Head Start and state pre-k](#) Washington, DC: Pre-K Now.

A study examining how Head Start and state-funded prekindergarten programs can coordinate service delivery, based on in-depth interviews with program providers, state prekindergarten program directors, and state Head Start collaboration coordinators

Clothier, Steffanie, (2006). [Effective strategies for prekindergarten expansion: Collaboration with community providers](#) Denver, CO: National Conference of State Legislatures.

A discussion of the costs and benefits of implementing a mixed approach to prekindergarten service delivery, in which both schools and community-based child care organizations provide services, based on evidence from current state approaches

Holcomb, Betty. (2006). [A diverse system delivers for pre-k: Lessons learned in New York State](#) Washington, DC: Pre-K Now.

An examination of New York State's approach to delivering prekindergarten services, with lessons for other states

Schumacher, Rachel; Ewen, Danielle; Hart, Katherine; Lombardi, Joan (2005). [All together now: State experiences in using community-based child care to provide pre-kindergarten](#) Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

A discussion of the findings from a survey of 29 states conducted by the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), which examined the policies, opportunities, and challenges associated with including community based child care providers as part of the states' prekindergarten programs

Campbell, Dottie. (2003). [Collaboration in southern regional early care and education systems: Descriptions of state collaboration efforts to improve the quality of programs in the early care and education system](#) Columbia, SC: Southern Institute on Children and Families.

A study of collaboration efforts to improve the quality of programs in the early care and education system in the southern states

Flynn, Margaret; Hayes, Cheryl D. (2003). [Blending and braiding funds to support early care and education initiatives](#) Washington, DC: Finance Project.

An exploration of strategies for the alignment, coordination, and integration of funding streams for early childhood supports and services

Paulsell, Diane; Nogales, Renee; Cohen, Julie (2003). [Quality child care for infants and toddlers: Case studies of three community strategies](#) Washington, DC: Zero to Three.

A study of child care quality and its impact on infants and toddlers presenting a set of in-depth case studies of three types of collaborative infant-toddler child care initiatives located in four diverse communities, with findings collected during intensive three-day site visits to the case study communities

Paprocki, Charles; Kolben, Nancy S. (2002). [The universal prekindergarten program in Community School District Eleven, New York City: A study in collaborative leadership and systems building](#) New York: Early Childhood Strategic Group.

A discussion of the role of collaborative leadership and strategic planning in the expansion of the universal prekindergarten program in Community School District 11 in New York City, based on information from a survey of program administrators and staff members.

Schumacher, Rachel, Greenberg, Mark H.; Lombardi, Joan. (2001). [State initiatives to promote early learning: Next steps in coordinating subsidized child care, Head Start, and state prekindergarten](#) Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

This document addresses the expanded funding for subsidized child care, the Head Start program, and in some states, prekindergarten initiatives. It describes the challenges facing Georgia, Massachusetts and Ohio in addressing the need to provide work supports for families and the need to address school readiness for all children. The paper also offers recommendations to these states.

Evaluations of Collaborations in Early Care and Education

Government

Pierce, Alexandra (Sandi). (2009) [Head Start State Collaboration Office 2009 needs assessment report](#) Roseville: Minnesota, Department of Education.

An exploration of the cooperation, coordination, and collaboration experiences of Head Start programs in working with state and local agencies across 10 areas of service delivery, based on survey responses from 29 rural, urban/suburban, or tribal Head Start programs in Minnesota

Illinois Department of Human Services. Head Start State Collaboration Office, November (2007). [Child Care Collaboration Program evaluation report](#) Springfield: Illinois, Department of Human Services.

An evaluation of outcomes, successes, and challenges in the Illinois Child Care Collaboration Program, which facilitates collaboration among child care and other early childhood programs, based on a review of collaboration provider annual reports, administrative data, a survey of program participants, and key informant interviews

Universities and Research Organizations

Schilder, Diane; Broadstone, Meghan; Chauncey, Benjamin W.; Kiron, Ellen; Miller, Candy; Lim, Youngok (2009). [Child care quality study: The impact of Head Start partnership on child care quality: Final report](#) Newton, MA: Education Development Center.

An examination of the influence of Head Start and child care provider partnerships on children's outcomes and the quality of services provided, based on assessments of more than 600 children and surveys and observations of more than 200 child care centers and family child care providers in Ohio

Ward, Helen D.; Yoon, Sun Y.; Atkins, Julie; Morris, Patricia; Oldham, Erin; Wathen, Karen (2009). [Children at risk in the child welfare system: Collaborations to promote school readiness](#) Portland, ME: Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, Institute for Child and Family Policy.

A study of collaboration among the child welfare, early intervention and preschool special education, and early care and education systems to promote the school readiness of children in the child welfare system, based on an analysis of data from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Wellbeing (NSCAW) and a case study in Colorado that included key stakeholder interviews and foster parent and caseworker surveys

Del Grosso, Patricia; Aikens, Nikki; Paulsell, Diane; Boller, Kimberley; Honeycutt, Todd; Asheer, Subuhi. (2008). [Building a community-wide early learning system: East Yakima at baseline](#) Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research.

Baseline findings from a multi-year implementation evaluation, one of four components in an overall evaluation, of the East Yakima Early Learning Initiative, part of a 10-year strategy to improve children's school readiness in Washington State, that examined the East Yakima community, the availability and quality of child care services there, the East Yakima Early Learning Initiative planning process, and the community's goals and expectations for East Yakima Early Learning Initiative implementation

Paulsell, Diane; Boller, Kimberley; Del Grosso, Patricia; Aikens, Nikki; Honeycutt, Todd; Asheer, Subuhi (2008). [Building a community-wide early learning system: White Center at baseline](#) Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research.

Baseline findings from a multi-year implementation evaluation, one of four components in an overall evaluation, of the White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI), part of a 10-year strategy to improve children's school readiness in Washington State, that examined the White Center community, the availability and quality of child care services there, the WCELI planning process, and the community's goals and expectations for WCELI implementation

Adams, Diane B.; Bierbrauer, Jason; Edie, David; Fisher, Angela; Riley, Dave A.; Roach, Mary A.; Robinson, Allen; Sweet, Alan; Vinijtrongjit, Chavameth (2006). [Report on baseline communities: Structure of collaborations and contractual relationships](#) (Report B). Madison: University of Wisconsin--Extension.

An examination of characteristics of Wisconsin school districts that have a "community approach" to 4-year-old kindergarten (i.e., collaboration between the district's schools and child care or Head Start), including contractual agreements, type and frequency of collaboration activities, and provision of transportation for the children

Adams, Diane B.; Bierbrauer, Jason; Edie, David; Fisher, Angela; Riley, Dave A.; Roach, Mary A.; Robinson, Allen; Sweet, Alan; Vinijtrongjit, Chavameth (2006) [Update on community approach districts: 2005-06](#) (Report D). Madison: University of Wisconsin--Extension.

A survey-based study of Wisconsin elementary districts to create baseline data on districts with a "community approach" to four-year-old kindergarten (collaboration with child care or Head Start) and to compare the community approach districts to districts that offer four-year-old kindergarten without a collaborative arrangement

Schilder, Diane; Chauncey, Benjamin W.; Broadstone, Meghan; Miller, Candy; Smith, Ashley; Skiffington, Sheila; Elliott, Kimberly (2005). [Child care/Head Start partnership study: Final report](#) Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Center for Children and Families.

A report of a longitudinal study of Ohio child care centers that examined the nature and benefits of partnerships with Head Start agencies and analyzed the differences between partnering and comparison centers through surveys of directors, teachers and parents

Schilder, Diane. (2004). [Head Start/child care partnerships: Partnering programs more likely to provide comprehensive services](#) (Research Brief Vol. 2 No. 1). Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Center for Children and Families.

A brief describing and comparing the screenings, referrals, and services offered by child care centers in partnerships with Head Start and those not in partnerships in Ohio

Schilder, Diane. (2003). [State strategies to support early care and education partnerships](#) (Research Brief Vol. 1 No. 3). Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Center for Children and Families.

A summary of the actions states take to support early care and education partnerships.

Harvard Family Research Project, (2002). [Early care and education collaborative: Evaluation report](#) Paper presented at a meeting of the Early Care and Education Collaborative, Kansas City, Missouri.

An evaluation of the design and implementation of strategic communications collaborative aimed at creating the public will and investments needed for quality and comprehensive state early care and education systems in Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania

Taylor, Karen; Bryant, Donna M. (2002). [Demonstrating effective child care quality improvement](#) Chapel Hill, NC: FPG Child Development Institute.

A description of 12 North Carolina child care program and community agency collaboration strategies, using data from 37 interviews with their leaders and participants

Journals

Sowa, Jessica E. (2008). [Implementing interagency collaborations: Exploring variation in collaborative ventures in human service organizations](#) Administration & Society, 49(3), 298-323

An examination of 20 instances of interagency collaboration between more than one child care and/or early education organization to provide full-day and full-year care for young children

Selden, Sally C.; Sowa, Jessica E.; Sandfort, Jodi R. (2006). [The impact of nonprofit collaboration in early child care and education on management and program outcomes](#) Public Administration Review, 66(3), 412-425

An examination of the impact of interagency collaborations on the management processes and program outcomes in terms of Head Start and other publicly funded child care and early education programs

Bruder, Mary Beth; Harbin, Gloria; Whitbread, Kathleen; Conn-Powers, Michael; Roberts, Richard N.; Dunst, Carl J.; Van Buren, Melissa; Mazzarella, Cindy; Gabbard, Glenn O. (2005). [Establishing outcomes for service coordination: A step toward evidence-based practice](#). *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, (25),3, 177–88.

A study of the outcomes of the systems and coordination of Part C services most valued by parents and stakeholders, based on several surveys of service providers, stakeholders, and parents of children with disabilities

Peart, Norman A.; Bryant, Donna (1999). [Getting a "Head Start" in collaborative partnerships](#) *NHSA Dialog*, 2(3), 389-404

An examination of the collaboration between Head Start and North Carolina's Smart Start Initiative, focusing on factors that enhance or diminish collaborative relationships, issues that arise during collaboration's implementation, and the structures that need to be built to increase the success and length of collaborations, based on data collected over a 2-year period through interviews with parents, Smart Start leaders and planners, and local and state Head Start agency representatives.

To suggest additions to this Key Topic Resource List, please email us at contact@researchconnections.org.

The full results came from a search on collaboration and coordination.