



## Research on Early Care and Education Collaboration Evidence about Effective Strategies and Existing Gaps

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### Key Findings from forthcoming (October 2019) Special Issue of Early Education and Development focused on Collaboration

- **What aspects of collaboration lead to success?**
  - **Focus on mutual measurable outcomes** (such as working together to improve early learning outcomes)
  - **Administrative procedures including the following:**
    - Informal agreement regarding the collaboration
    - Formal written agreement regarding the collaboration
    - Voluntary contractual relationship regarding the collaboration
    - Process to address funding
    - Agreement on developing programs and services
    - Process for staff training
    - Procedure for informing the public about the collaboration
    - Procedure to address facilities/space of those providing services
  - **Strong relationships among those collaborating including the following:**
    - Collaborating partner take opinions seriously
    - Collaborators work together to accomplish what is necessary
    - Mutual agreement about goals
    - Activities are well-coordinated
    - Partners share resources
    - Partners feel appreciated
    - Partners work through differences
    - Collaborators report they can count on one other
  - **Time** devoted to the collaboration is important for collaboration success
- **How is the success of collaboration measured?**
  - Level of engagement with a collaborating partner around strategies and policies related to supporting:
    - Access to early care and education services
    - Access to early education services for special populations
    - Enhanced quality of early care
    - Enhanced comprehensive services/accessibility for families
  - Improved observed quality (as measured by independent measure)
  - Improvements in seamless access to services
- **What gaps exist in the current research base?**
  - Studies that examine how differential power relationships influence collaboration
  - Peer-reviewed research on effective state system level collaborations
  - Research on whether formal federal and state policies to support collaborations address or exacerbate inequities

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