Collaborations Annotated Bibliography

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  - Research Assistants: Ali Chrisler & Shana Simkin
  - Project Director: Tamara Halle

Background

- 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

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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

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Summary of Articles/Books Included

- 28 annotations completed

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

  * Multiple methodologies could be used within a single study

- 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)

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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

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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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