

Building and Strengthening Community Collaboratives

DEFINITION

...is growing and sustaining local and/or regional multi-agency, multi-discipline, cross cultural community collaboratives who work together to improve services, supports and opportunities for very young children and their families.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- An effective ECD Community Collaborative positively impacts child level outcomes.
- Capacity building activity improves an individual or a community's ability to identify and meet challenges in a sustainable manner.
- An awareness, understanding and acceptance of diversity supports the creation of meaningful partnerships.

KNOWLEDGE

- A variety of collaborative group processes for learning, planning, action and evaluation.
- The uniqueness of the particular cultures and ethnic groups locally represented.
- The sources and key findings of the most up-to-date research and local knowledge on early child development.
- The different interests, strengths, resources and power influences of the individuals and organizations represented in the community collaborative.

SKILLS

- Identify diverse community partners and nurture their readiness to engage
- Take action to increase participation
- Facilitate rich and productive group interactions.
- Develop/revise a community ECD action plan.
- Build relationships based on trust, transparency, inclusivity and open communication.
- Manage diversity and inclusion
- Agree on common language
- Establish communication and working practices

And working towards:

- Understanding the governance arrangements of all partners
- Planning, leading and managing transition and change
- Pooling budgets to enhance provision of ECD services