Community Collaborations: Maintaining a Healthy Partnership Using the 3 Rs!

Presented By:
Colleen M. Allen
Project Manager for Engage Outreach
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Houston
Texas' child population is increasingly located in Texas' metropolitan areas.

Child population by county, 2013

Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities
State of Texas Children 2016
Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities

Counties with the fastest-growing child populations lie outside major Texas cities.
Percentage change in child population, 1990-2010

- Amarillo
- Lubbock
- Abilene
- Fort Worth
- Dallas
- Tyler
- Midland
- San Angelo
- Austin
- Corpus Christi
- Laredo
- McAllen
- Brownsville
State of Texas Children 2016
Source: Center for Public Policy Priorities

One in four Texas kids live below the poverty line.
Child poverty, 2014¹²⁰
Texas Children living in areas of concentrated poverty, by race and ethnicity, 2010-14

- WHITE: 4%
- ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER: 6%
- MULTIRACIAL: 11%
- BLACK: 23%
- HISPANIC: 30%
- TOTAL: 19%
Why do early learning programs matter?
Achievement Gap
Don’t reinvent the wheel!
“For education leaders with a traditional K-12 perspective, collaboration often presents both new opportunities and new difficulties, from establishing relationships with early care providers to developing a shared definition of ‘school readiness.’ While implementing a pre-k program in partnership with community-based organizations may require more time and effort, this strategy ultimately benefits all stakeholders: public schools, private providers, families and children.”

- Beyond the School Yard: Pre-K Collaborations with Community-Based Partners
  The Pew Report, July 2009
Establishing the Need

K-16 system alignment starts with 0-5 alignment
Defining School Readiness as Cited in NAEYC Position Statement

“School readiness involves more than just children. School readiness, in the broadest sense, is about children, families, early environments, schools, and communities. Children are not innately ‘ready’ or ‘not ready’ for school. Their skills and development are strongly influenced by their families and through their interactions with other people and environments before coming to school.” (Maxwell & Clifford, 2004, p. 42)
Dimensions of School Readiness

• Physical Well-being and Motor Development
• Socio-emotional Development
• Approaches to Learning
• Language Development
• Cognition and Early Knowledge

- Source: The National Education Goals Panel
The School Readiness Equation

Ready Families
  +
Ready Communities
  +
Ready Services
  +
Ready Schools
  =

Children Ready for School
How do we define collaboration?

*teamwork * partnership * group effort
*association
*alliance * relationship * cooperation * help
*assist * lend a hand * oblige
*work together * integrate * put together
*mix * incorporate * add
*join together * amalgamate * combine
*assimilate * merge
*mingle * fuse * unite
What is a Community-Based School Readiness Integration Partnership?
Fusing the Entities

Diverse organizations work with the same population of at-risk children; however, each contributes through different emphasis on the child’s development. The collaboration allows each entity to capitalize on each other’s strengths to provide a seamless, holistic education for each child in the program.
Cooperative Strategies for Sharing Resources –
Texas Education Code, Section 29.1533

• Sharing certified or highly qualified teachers;
• Developing comprehensive instructional frameworks based on the Texas Prekindergarten Guidelines, consisting of common performance goals;
• Sharing physical space if one organization lacks capacity;
• Conducting joint professional development that focuses on proven school readiness components; and
• Adopting similar approaches to student progress monitoring to inform classroom instruction.
Collaboration

Diverse organizations work with the same population of at-risk children; however, each contributes through different emphasis on the child’s development. The collaboration allows each entity to capitalize on each other’s strengths to provide a seamless, holistic education for each child in the program.
Public School Pre-Kindergarten

• Collaboration with other programs may allow expansion to full day programs
• Could share a teacher assistant
• Save district dollars sharing off-campus facility space
• Enhance services such as reduced ratios with co-teachers
Child Care

• Enhance quality with TEA certified teachers
• Save dollars by sharing resources such as Teacher Assistants, facilities, and teaching curriculum/materials
• Provide wrap around child care services
Head Start

• Partner with Pre-K Public School or Child Care program or both and expand a half-day Head Start to full day of care and education

• Save dollars by sharing resources such as Teacher Assistants, facilities, and teaching curriculum/materials
3R

- Rules
- Routines
- Relationships
Rules: Sunshine and water
Rules

Consider primary governing regulations and standards

TEA Pre-K Guidelines & Texas Education Code

Head Start Performance Standards

Child Care Licensing (TFPS)
Head Start

Content areas

Education
Health
Nutrition
Mental Health
Disabilities
Social Services
Head Start

Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework addresses 5 central domains of a child’s development:

- Language and Literacy
- Cognition
- Social Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Perceptual, Motor and Physical Development
Child Care

Type of facility
* for-profit
* non-profit
* corporate
* faith-based

operational policies and procedures
hours of operation
wrap around care
year round programs

TFPS ratings

Other quality ratings
Texas Rising Star provider
NAEYC accreditation, NAC
ISD

School District requirements and unique initiatives
bilingual programs
½ day programs vs. full day
inclusion classrooms
identified need/ADA
classroom space
Enrollment

• Children are dually enrolled
• May have separate funding sources
• Merge enrollment packets
  consider most restrictive
Collaborative policies:

- Registration procedures
- ESL and Special Programs services
- District and Classroom Communication
  Attendance and Tardies
- Related Services
- Instruction Team
Routines: Pull weeds
Routines

• Schedules
• Roles and responsibilities
• Meals
• Naps
• Arrival time
• # hours cognitive instruction
Relationships: Talk and nurture
Relationships

• Core knowledge
• A team classroom!
  
  Co-Teachers
  Shared resources
  Shared responsibility
  Shared space
  Shared time
The Core Collaboration Team consists of ...

- ISD Teacher
- Head Start or Child Care Teacher
- Teacher Assistants
- Mentor or Coach
- Center Facility Staff
- Center Directors, Principals, Assistant Directors/Assistant Principals, ISD Education Specialists, and Early Childhood Program Directors
- Students and Families
Leadership involvement

• Communication
• Integration
• Sustainability
Everything You Need to Know About Working as a Team
You Learned in Kindergarten

• Be Honest
• Be Respectful
• Be Responsible
• Be Fair and Reasonable
• Be Compassionate
The benefits of a collaborative program for children and families ...

- Emphasis on children AND families
- Access to Special Program services through public school district
- Transition to public school services
- Holistic education of child
- Shared use of equipment, materials and facilities and staff
The Family Experience
The Family Experience
Growing a Collaboration