



The More We Get
Together!
Communication
& Collaboration
with the Whole
Team!

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Activity #1

- On your desk you have something
- Take 1 minute to think about what that might be—
Just work independently
- Jot down or keep in your mind what you think it is
- Don't lose your piece!



What is communication?

- Imparting or exchanging of news or information
- Transmitting information
- A mode for expressing ideas effectively (as in Speech)
- Communication begins in infancy
 - Proper communication skills are the basis for children to be in harmony with their environment. Communication is the basis for establishing healthy social relationships and regulating their reactions emotionally (Dagal, 2017)
 - Humans use communication in every phase of life. Newborn babies point out a physical need with a cry. By doing this, babies lay the foundations of communication and produce the communication skills which will help them to form a connection with society. Reactions received by others continue to encourage the use of communication (Dagal, 2017)



What is collaboration?

- Working with someone to produce or create something
- Individuals work together towards a common purpose to achieve benefit
- Working together can exist in two forms:
 - Synchronous—Everyone interacts in real time, as in online meetings, through instant messaging, or via facetimeing
 - Asynchronous—interaction can be time-shifted, as in uploading documents or information to shared workspaces

Are communication and collaboration
the same thing?





Activity #2

- You have 30 seconds...
- Ask your neighbor one thing about the piece you had sitting on your desk when you arrived
- Let them ask you one question too



Communication OR Collaboration?

Listen to the following scenarios and decide if they are examples of communication or examples of collaboration...



Communication or Collaboration?

The director of special education asked the teachers what they thought about the schedule for the year. Some of the teachers responded with some comments and concerns moving forward. The director of special education said, “Thanks for the information.” No follow-up discussions have occurred.



Communication or Collaboration?

Parents send pictures and information about weekend activities to the teacher.



Communication or Collaboration?

The special education teachers met together to discuss themes for the school. At the end of their meeting they had some finished products to utilize within their classrooms (lesson plans, crafts, etc.).



Communication or Collaboration?

Today the general education and special education teacher met. They modified a test to meet the needs of the student.



Communication or Collaboration?

The general education teacher goes to the special education teacher and says, “Will this assignment be too hard for Annie?” The special education teacher says, “Yes, it will be too hard.” The general education teacher says, “Thanks” and walks away.



Communication or Collaboration?

The preschool team and related service providers meet every Monday to discuss and plan for students on their caseloads.



Communication or Collaboration?

At the beginning of the year the special education teacher hands the general education teacher a copy of the student's IEP and says, "Have a great year! Johnny is fun to work with!"

Communication vs. Collaboration

Communication	Collaboration
Informing	Working together
One-sided	Joint effort
Gaining facts	Finished product; determining next steps
As-needed basis	Ongoing



Activity #3

- You will be assigned a role as either a general education teacher or a special education teacher.
- You are planning a beginning of the year activity for your students.
- The activity will only last for 5 minutes.



Steps for Activity #3

1. You have 3 minutes to start planning a beginning of the year activity for your students. The activity should last for 5 minutes.



Steps Continued...

2. If you have Laffy Taffy, smarties, or a Lifesaver find someone with a Rolo, Hershey's Kiss, or Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.
3. Pull out the paper titled Special Education Teacher or General Education Teacher—You and your partner should each have a different one.
4. Spend 2 minutes sharing the information on the paper with your partner.



Steps Continued...

5. Work independently on your activity again for 3 minutes—If you are the Special Education teacher be thinking of accommodations and modifications your students might need.



Steps Continued...

6. Get with your partner again and now you can spend 5 minutes working together to finalize your beginning of the year activity.



Reflections

- Talk about how you felt at the beginning of the activity.
- Why do you think communication is important?
- Why do you think collaboration is important?
- In your mind, what's the impact of communication and. collaboration on you as a teacher.
- Any additional thoughts...



Activity #4

- Take the piece that was on your desk when you arrived
- Find individuals who have the same color piece as you do
- See what you come up with!



Reflections

- Thoughts?

Take a caterpillar and write a communication or collaboration goal for yourself/team for next school year!

If nothing ever
changed, there'd be
no butterflies.
-Unknown

WHAT IF
THAT CHANGE
YOU'RE AVOIDING
IS THE ONE
THAT GIVES YOU
winds?

LaurieWallin.com

Hopefully, something AMAZING will come from it—just like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly!

Benefits of Communication & Collaboration

The benefits are endless...Always remember...

Coming together is a
BEGINNING

Keeping together is
PROGRESS

Working together is
SUCCESS

Henry Ford



**“ALONE WE CAN
DO SO LITTLE;
TOGETHER WE
CAN DO SO MUCH.”**

- Helen Keller





References

Dagal, A.B. (2017). Investigation of the relationship between communication skills, social competence and emotion regulation skills of preschool children in Turkey. *Educational Research and Reviews*, 12(4), 164-171.