



Working Collaboratively With Your Child's Early Childhood Education and Care Service

Collaboration – community services working together with each other and with families to ensure the best outcomes for children – can help to provide families with better, more streamlined access to the services that are available in their community.

How do we collaborate?

The partnership that you form with the early childhood education and care service that your child attends is an example of collaboration. The information you share with your child's early childhood educators, and the information you gain back from them, helps to support your child's learning and development.

Collaboration can also extend beyond your partnership with your child's early childhood education and care service, out into the wider early childhood and allied health community. For example, your child's early childhood service might collaborate with a local cultural association or, child and family health nurses might attend to provide health services. Sharing information allows for decisions about care and development to be more fully informed.

What are the benefits for my family?

The benefits that are expected from collaboration are many and extend to families and children as well as early childhood educators. Some of the benefits are:

- **More effective services.** When services in your community work collaboratively it can lead to information and skill sharing between early childhood and other allied professionals, for example, child and family health nurses and early childhood educators. This allows the professionals your family sees to draw on a greater range of knowledge in order to best support your family.
- **Improved access to services.** Coordinated planning, information sharing and pooled agency funds can help to ensure that the services that are available in your community are a better fit with your community's needs.
- **Making the most of limited resources.** The time and financial resources that are available to community services are limited. Pooling resources can save your community's services time and money. For you and your family there are also time and money savings that come from not having to deal with multiple agencies to communicate your needs or to get multiple assessments done.

Any information about your family can only be shared between services with your permission. Ask to see the service's privacy policy if you are concerned.

Collaboration benefits families and communities

Collaborating effectively asks for a significant commitment of time and effort. However, the benefits it can bring to families and children are significant. Your whole community is made stronger as a result of the links formed, the knowledge shared and the new connections made.

AN INITIATIVE OF

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