Building Minds for Collaboration

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Multiple "shared minds" relationships in policy & practice

- **Professionals & parents**
- **Professionals with each other** ⬅
- Parents & children
- Professionals & children
- Children & children
- Theoretical underpinnings: Bronfenbrenner's model of overlapping spheres of influence

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My focus today on "collaborative minds"….

- Collaboration that informs policy and practice of children's programs (literacy, FDEL/K)

- How do professionals (ECEs, teachers, program facilitators, parenting workers) "build shared minds" with parents?

- How do professionals (ECEs, K teachers) "build shared minds" with each other in collaborative practices?

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Educators collaborating with parents

- ⬦ What are the "processes" that make partnerships with parents truly effective?
- ⬦ It's not just about giving parents programs to do at home
- ⬦ How do we create shared knowledge (a meeting of minds?)
- ⬦ One example: family literacy

What is shared?

⋄ Practitioners share information
  about children's oral and print-based language development

⋄ Parents share information about their own child's experiences

⋄ Parents learn from each other

⋄ Parents and children have a base of shared understanding about each aspect of early language and literacy development

How?

✧ Begin with informed and trained facilitators

✧ Tested format of "programs"

- Parent-child together sessions with facilitators

- Parent-only sessions to discuss key messages

- Child-only sessions to practice key concepts

- Parent-child together sessions to share and practice

- Regular practice and reflection among parents

✧ What is being shared here?

Educators collaborating with each other

⬧ What are the "processes" that make educator collaborations effective?

⬧ It's not just about putting them together
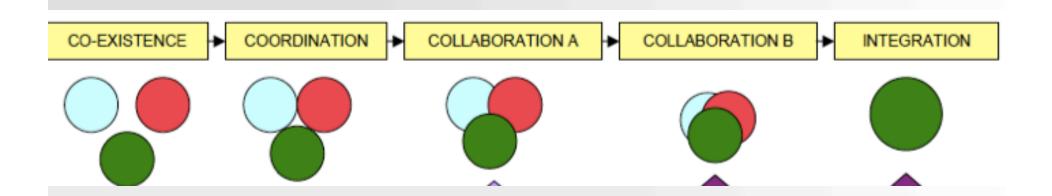
⬧ How do they develop "shared minds"?

Example from research on integrated full-day early learning/K

◇ Impact of programs on:

- **Staff teams** ⬅

- Parents

- Children

◇ What is the story that underlies the impact?

What is integration?

| CO-EXISTENCE | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION A | COLLABORATION B | INTEGRATION |

Difference between shared information and shared minds

What does research say about developing shared minds?

1) Commitment to shared vision of integration

2) Leadership

3) Time

4) Professional development and support

5) Mentoring and professional respect

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This afternoon:

 ✧ Build understanding of shared minds by:

   • Looking in depth at the processes and supports that build shared minds and effective relationships

   • Putting our minds to work collaboratively to help set directions for our work