



NYSAEYC Reporter E-Newsletter

Adult Collaboration

Summer 2014

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Adult Collaboration + Professionalism + Teamwork = Leadership!

Collaboration in the Inclusive Early Childhood Setting

Maintaining an Effective Teaching Team in the Preschool Classroom

NEW NAEYC INITIATIVE!

Grandes Comienzos, Futuros Brillantes

For information about this new NAEYC Conference and Expo initiative, please read more [here!](#)

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About this Issue Pat Beck

For many people, January 1st signals a time to reflect on the past year and make resolutions to do things differently in the upcoming year. A similar thing happens to Early Childhood professionals during this time of year as they get ready for a new school year. New bulletin boards are put up, learning centers are updated, training and orientations are scheduled, and goals are set in anticipation for the start of another year. It would be hard to find anyone who would dispute that these preparations are important and help towards having a successful year but there is one area that is often not given the same amount of attention that is just as important, if not more. That area is collaboration.

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Pat Beck is an independent early childhood training consultant who believes that we can all do better when we know better. She enjoys sharing her experience and knowledge with adults to help improve the quality of care to children through keynote presentations, training workshops, and classes for early childhood professionals. Pat is a NYS Credentialed Trainer and holds a Master's degree in Management from Keuka College in addition to her Bachelor degree from Empire State College in Community and Human Services with a concentration in Child and Family Studies. She has also been a member of NAEYC for many years and has served on various boards in her community.

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Education is About Relationships By Myra Hushansky

Education is about relationships. A productive environment for learning is created by an atmosphere of respect and enthusiasm. The collaboration between all the adults in a student's life must work towards trust, which is the bedrock of student achievement.

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Myra Hushansky is a special educator with the New York City public schools. She is also an adjunct lecturer in the Master's program in Education at Hunter College of CUNY and the director of the Tikvah Program at Brotherhood Synagogue, a special needs religious school program in New York City.

Adult Collaboration + Professionalism + Teamwork = Leadership! By Maryann Augusta

As an early childhood administrator, I realized early on that effective leadership is built on effective relationships with everyone: teachers, teacher assistants, parents, support staff, board members, and of course the children. I believe that the tenets of a rich, early childhood environment are collaboration, coaching, and leading by example. In each of my programs, our mission has been not only to create a safe, nurturing environment where children can learn, grow and explore, but one where the staff and parents could, too. For me as a leader, it means all staff becoming innovative thinkers who problem-solve, share opinions, and collaborate. It also means parental involvement: keeping them in the loop about all we are trying to accomplish, the purpose of the learning activities, and understanding how children develop and learn.

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Maryann Augusta is the owner of The Learning Mode, a consulting firm specializing in assisting new start-ups and financially challenged non-profits change business strategies to raise revenue and implement effective programs. Ms. Augusta holds a NYS School District Administrative Certification (SDA), an advanced Graduate Diploma in Educational Leadership, a Master's in Arts in Education, a Permanent Teaching NYS N-6 Certification, and an Executive Coaching Certificate.

Collaboration in the Inclusive Early Childhood Education Setting By Stephen Hernandez

What is Collaboration?

Collaboration can be viewed as teamwork with several interrelated components that range from building team structure to coordinating team action (Snell & Janney, 2005). The importance of collaboration in early childhood environments is critical in today's schools. As we serve a more diverse group of children in more inclusive environments, we now need to work with a wider variety of individuals with a number of different skill sets (Hernandez, 2013).

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Stephen J. Hernandez, Ed.D, is the director of Early Childhood Special Education at Hofstra University. Dr. Hernandez teaches a number of courses in special education and provides supervision to student teachers completing their graduate degrees in Early Childhood Special Education. In addition to his work in academia, he has worked with children with special needs for over thirty-five years in the classroom as well as in a number of administrative capacities. He also serves a number of organizations, including as a state-wide member-at-large for the NYSAEYC. Dr. Hernandez's areas of research include the characteristics of successful collaborative teaming and the management of challenging behaviors in children with special needs.

Maintaining an Effective Teaching Team in the Preschool Classroom By Mary Tuazon

In a typical preschool classroom, there is a teaching team working together to meet the needs of the children. Everyone holds different roles and responsibilities. This team needs to be supportive, responsive, enthusiastic and, above all, professional. But with the daily chaos and extra hours put in, this can be a challenge. Maintaining an effective teaching team involves work. This is an integral part of the children's environment, which requires attention.

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Mary Tuazon has been working with young children for almost ten years. She currently works at Barrow Street Nursery School with two- and three-year olds. She holds a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Hunter College (CUNY) and is a proud mother to a newborn and her two dogs.

Grandes Comienzos, Futuros Brillantes A New NAEYC Conference and Expo Initiative

Did you know that according to Pew Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project there are 17 states where Latino children make up at least 20 percent of the public school kindergarten population? And that in 2014 minorities are projected to make up more than 50 percent of the US student population?

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The New York State Association for the Education of Young Children's mission is to promote excellence in early care and education services for NYS children and families through education, advocacy and the support of the profession.