Educating Children with Deaf-Blindness: The Importance of Collaborative Teaming

(Image from NCDB)

Low Incidence Institute
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Definition of "Team"

Merriam Webster's definition of "Team"
- "A group of people who compete in a sport, game, etc., against another group."
- "A group of two or more animals used to pull a wagon, cart, etc."
- "A group of people who work together."

Descriptions of Effective Teamwork

Coordinated- Sharing of information so each person can facilitate their part of the group's goal.

- Efficient
- Top/Down Leadership-"I know what to do and when to do it."
- Different Values- "The guy next to me though this would be impressive."

(Video from www.youtube.com)

Descriptions of Effective Teamwork

Cooperative-Each team member assists to meet each other's goal rather than a shared goal.

- Common effort
- Beginning to develop trust
- Hierarchy of power

(Video from www.youtube.com)

Descriptions of Effective Teamwork

Collaborative-
- Shared goals
- Shared responsibility for outcomes
- Interdependent

Lets meet Jarvis and several members of his educational team...

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

Descriptions of Effective Teamwork

Jarvis' educational team demonstrates:
- Team planning and implementation
- Shared resources through the use of an experience book
- Commonality of interaction (language, sign, movement)
- Shared experiences
- Integrated roles

The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

Each team member brings their expertise, experience, and background to the group with...

The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

...Shared Planning Time

Lauri shares her thoughts on the complexities of teams working together and shared planning time...

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

…Shared Resources

Jennifer wants us to know we shouldn't assume someone already knows about a resource…

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

…Shared Meaningful Goals & Unity of Purpose

Karen stresses teaming for the whole child…

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

...Shared Leadership

- Leadership shifts from time to time.
- Not who is in control, but how to get the job done.

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The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

...Shared Values and Trusting Relationships

Bernadette talks about trusting relationships...

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

…Interdependence

- Sharing of expertise to create a multi-faceted, comprehensive, whole-child approach to the educational program.
- Equal distribution of work.
- Everyone's ideas are valued.
- Accountable to each each other for the *success of the team and the child.*

The Essential Elements of Collaborative Teaming

Edgenie explains the team approach and the necessity of everyone working together …

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

Why is collaborative teaming vital to the education of a child with deaf-blindness?

The essential elements of the collaborative team *mirror* the essential elements of the educational needs of a child with deaf-blindness.

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The Essential Elements of The Educational Needs of a Child with Deaf-Blindness

Each team member brings their expertise, experience, and background to the child with…

The Essential Elements of The Educational Needs of a Child with Deaf-Blindness

…Shared ~~Planning~~

Processing Time

- Piecing together from part to whole.
- Managing the flow of information.

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of The Educational Needs of a Child with Deaf-Blindness

…Shared Resources

- Access to experiences
- Purposeful/meaningful instruction due to lack of incidental learning

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of The Educational Needs of a Child with Deaf-Blindness

…Shared Leadership

- Opportunities for turn-taking, reciprocal interactions
- Building instruction based on the child's strengths, their interests, their lead

    Example of turn-taking...

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of The Educational Needs of a Child with Deaf-Blindness

…Shared Meaningful Goals

& Unity of Purpose

- Meaningful instruction in an a natural context
- Understands purpose of activity
- Requisite skills and concepts

Jennifer explains...

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Essential Elements of The Educational Needs of a Child with Deaf-Blindness

…Shared Values and

Trusting Relationships

- Develop trust through routines
- Consistent outcomes
- Child's communication/behavior is valued

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

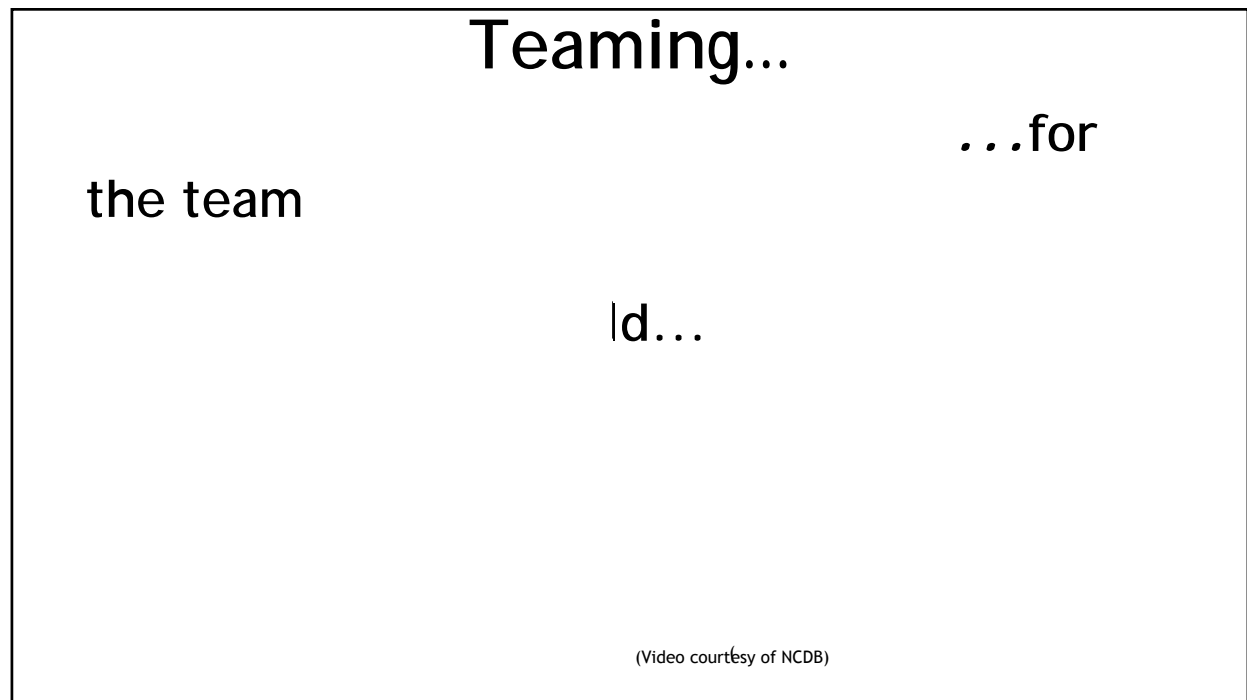# The Essential Elements of The Educational Needs of a Child with Deaf-Blindness

…Interdependence

- Of each other through trust
- Of the child's sensory systems

The whole child is valued.

Dr. Jan Van Dijk….

(Video courtesy of NCDB and Perkins)

Teaming...

...for

the team

ld...

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

Outcomes of Collaborative Teaming

- Shared goals leads to a consistent, predictable educational program.
- Shared resources and expertise keeps everyone "in the loop" regarding best practices to meet the needs of the child.
- Trusted relationships between team members builds constructive communication focused on the educational success of the child.

Outcomes of Collaborative Teaming

Caroline sums it
up so brilliantly….

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

The Transdisciplinary vs. Multidisciplinary Team Model for Assessment and Instruction

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Transdisciplinary vs. Multidisciplinary

Multidisciplinary:
- Team members assess/develop IEP goals/provide instruction independently.
- Instruction generally follows the "pull-out" method.
- Team members may meet occasionally to report progress.

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Transdisciplinary vs. Multidisciplinary

Transdisciplinary:
- Collaborates on assessments across natural settings.

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

Transdisciplinary vs. Multidisciplinary

Transdisciplinary:
- Collaborates on IEP goals.
- Provides integrated service delivery in the classroom.
  - Direct instruction/Team instruction
  - Model/coach other team members through instruction
  - Routines are used across disciplines and instruction to provide consistency and repetition.

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Transdisciplinary vs. Multidisciplinary

Chris shares his thoughts on using routines as a team.

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Transdisciplinary vs. Multidisciplinary

Transdisciplinary:
- Progress Monitoring of goals and objectives is shared by all team members.
- Teams meet regularly to develop collaborative strategies of instruction.

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Collaborative Team Meetings

- Accountability to the team/student is valued.
- Everyone actively participates.
- Seek out consensus.
- Set ground rules and follow them consistently.
- Build time for celebrating success.
- Utilize shared roles and responsibilities.

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Collaborative Team Meetings

Roles and Responsibilities:
- Leader
    - Develops agenda
    - Runs the meetings, sticks to agenda
    - Checks in with other roles to maintain meeting.
    - Sets date for next meeting.
    - Assigns roles for next meeting.

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Collaborative Team Meetings

Roles and Responsibilities:
- Facilitator
    - Makes sure participants follow pre-determined ground rules
    - Maintains order
    - Encourages participation by everyone
    - Offers reflections/summarizations at end of meeting

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Collaborative Team Meetings

Roles and Responsibilities:
- Recorder/Notetaker/Scribe
    - Records who is in attendance
    - Takes notes of meeting
    - Checks in with participants to make sure notes are accurate
    - Disseminates notes

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Collaborative Team Meetings

Roles and Responsibilities:
- Timekeeper
    - Hold time for the meeting
    - Keeps time spend on each agenda item in check
    - Keeps meeting to prescribed time

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Collaborative Team Meetings

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Participants
    - Stay on topic
    - Participate fully
    - Are good listeners
    - Keep criticism constructive

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In closing,
Johanna speaks to *all of us*…

(Video courtesy of NCDB)

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