

COLLABORATION

MOVING STRATEGY TO PRACTICE!

Quotes from Grow Along with Me Staff

“Seamless access is awesome; one point of entry into services helps parents and decreases confusion.”

“As a parent educator there is added value/strength in being a part of this [GAWM]: resulted in it [being] easier to present ideas, non-threatening partnering with people you have met through trainings, screenings, and local events. I know of great variety of supports available to parents and have confidence and knowledge about where to send them i.e. groups, website, newsletters.”

“It is exciting to see the momentum and [seeing] so many different agencies/ people on the same page. EXCITING!”

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

- The Grow Along with Me project has served as the foundation to plan, deliver and evaluate early childhood services. **Duplication has been reduced**, available resources are optimized and **access has been improved**.
- Shared philosophy and goals, strong leadership, mutual support and accountability, the diverse skill set of project partners, and participatory approach to evaluation were seen as the foundation for **effective team functioning**.

Foundational Factors	Jun-08	Sep-09
Shared vision and goals	71.0	88.9
Strong & shared leadership	80.4	88.6
Shared problem-solving	64.3	81.8
Mutual support	82.3	90.9
Mutual accountability	88.9	87.9

Foundational Factor ratings by the GAWM Steering Committee: June 2008 & September 2009.

- Inter-organizational **communication** was deemed a priority at both the formative and summative phases of the project.
- Collaboration allows for **flexibility** and **adaptability** throughout the project. Collaborative meetings create an environment to share expertise and resources, maximize service availability and increase access to evidence-based services for families across the region.
- Collaboration benefits from the **diversity** of the group members while bridging Ministerial, geographic and professional boundaries.

GROW ALONG WITH ME ACTIVITIES

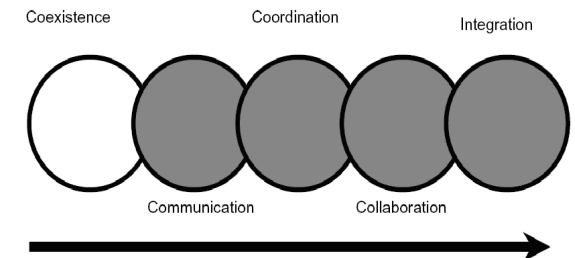
Collaboration: *“A process to reach goals that cannot be achieved acting singly (or at a minimum, cannot be reached efficiently). Collaboration is a means to an end, not an end in itself; the process needs to be effective to achieve successful end results” (Hasnain-Wynia et al., 2003, p. 43-44S).*

Since the first meeting to develop the Grow Along with Me project proposal in 2006, there has been a strong focus on collaboration.

Upon project start up, the GAWM Steering Committee developed Terms of Reference and began meeting on a monthly basis. Three subcommittees were also formed with membership from both steering committee members and front-line staff. These included: Evaluation; Communication; and Training

Additionally, front-line staff involved in the project began meeting regularly in the second year to share information, discuss challenges and jointly schedule and plan community educational events.

We are moving in the right direction!



Growing towards Integration (adapted from the Early Years Study 2: Putting Science into Action, 2007.)

REPORTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

Building Capacity: A Foundation for Success
Service Provider Survey