

Collaborating in the Classroom All Year Long

How might you collaborate with family and community members from the beginning, throughout, and at the end of the year? Use this tool to explore a few ways that educators have promoted collaboration in the classroom.

Collaborating From the Beginning

- Initiate communication with families and begin to build a trusting relationship.
 - Ask families about their communication preferences.
 - Ensure and engage in reciprocal communication (use families' preferred language and mode of communication).
 - Share information about yourself, the year's curriculum, and your learning goals for students.
 - Provide opportunities for families to share information about their child, goals they have for their child, and how they wish to engage throughout the year.
- Co-plan gatherings and beginning-of-the-year classroom activities.
 - Consider incorporating culturally and linguistically responsive activities, meeting at other locations besides the school, providing childcare and transportation options, etc.
- Connect learning to community.
 - Co-create and share a list of family and community resources that connect to your curriculum and identify ways families and community members can contribute to classroom learning.

Ongoing Collaboration

- Invite families and/or community members into the classroom.
 - Engage in literacy activities across content areas (for example, bilingual read-alouds, shared writing activities, etc.).
 - Share expertise and knowledge around one topic.
 - Engage one-on-one or in small groups with students (for example, math games, STEM activities, etc.).
- Co-create a culturally and linguistically responsive home–classroom library connected to your curriculum.
 - Include books, games, and activities students can check out and take home.
 - Host a make-and-take activity.

Collaborating at the End of the School Year and Beyond

- Co-plan gatherings and end-of-school-year activities.
 - Consider including culturally and linguistically responsive activities, planning around families' schedules, providing childcare and transportation, etc.
- Plan for continued learning and interaction over the summer.
 - Co-create a community map or resource guide with families that highlights local programs, events, and opportunities.
 - Co-plan optional opportunities for families and students to reconnect during the summer (e.g., informal meetups, check-ins, or community events).
- Act as a liaison for transitions.
 - Share information with teachers in the next grade level and facilitate introductions between families and teachers.

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