

What is collaboration?

The Oxford Dictionary of English defines collaboration as: 'the action of working with someone to produce something'

Collaboration has also been described by a number of early childhood researchers to reflect the nature of meaningful work that is undertaken by children and adults or children and their peers.

The following aspects are also described as being vital to effective collaboration with children.

- Interactions and relationships have priority.
- Diversity and individuality are honoured.
- Children are viewed as partners.

甚麼是合作？

牛津英語詞典將合作定義為：「與某人合作的行為而產生一些事情」。

許多早期幼兒研究員也描述了合作的性質是反映於兒童與成人或兒童及其同齡夥伴之間開展的有意義工作。



- 互動和彼此之關係具有優先序；
- 多樣化與獨特個性得到尊重；
- 兒童被視為合作夥伴。



Mutual respect & teamwork

What characterises genuine collaboration?

The following criteria are critical to genuine collaboration and partnerships:

- Mutual respect
- Trust
- Sensitivity to the other's perspective
- Ongoing, open communication
- Recognition and valuing of the unique contribution and strengths of the partner
- Shared decision making

Involving children in decision-making entails educators recognising that all children, including babies and toddlers, have the right and ability to make choices about their daily experiences and activities. To effectively facilitate children's decision-making, the experiences, routines and physical environment need to be arranged so that children have many real opportunities to make choices about what they do and when they will do it.

A high quality early childhood program involves the collaboration of children, families and educators in planning and developing meaningful learning experiences. ... Collaboration with children means consulting with children in ways that are developmentally appropriate and meaningful to the child.

真正合作的特點是甚麼？

以下標準對真正的合作和夥伴關係尤其重要：

- 相互尊重；
- 信任；
- 對另一方的敏感度；
- 正在進行及開放式溝通；
- 重新認識和重視合作夥伴的獨特貢獻和優點；
- 分享決策。

幼兒是有權利和能力選擇他們的日常經驗和活動，而讓兒童開始參與決策是在於教育者對所有兒童之認識，包括對嬰兒和兒童。讓孩子在恆常環境和物質中給予他們真正選擇想做甚麼和在甚麼時候做的機會，這能更有效地促進兒童的決策並從中吸取經驗。

高質量的早期兒童計劃涉及兒童、家庭和教育工作者在規劃和開發有意義的學習經歷方面的合作。與兒童的合作意味著在兒童發展階段上使用適當和有意義的方式與兒童進行協商。



Working with a partner



Collaborative Learning

As we look forward to the society of the future and aim to equip our children with the necessary skills to lead successful lives, we are increasingly aware of the need to be able to work collaboratively.

Collaborative learning, is designed to take advantage of the combined talents of a group of children by offering an opportunity to explore and develop something together. Students share their insights, observations, and questions. They share the creation of the end product. And most importantly, they share the actual learning experience, learning from each other as much as from the task at hand.

We actively promote Collaborative Learning at Discovery Mind and each day observe the following benefits for our students;

1. Enhances Problem-solving Skills and inspires critical thinking

Collaborative learning requires students to discuss a task, work together to explore possible solutions and then agree on and work towards an end goal. Children not only need to think clearly and rationally about what to do but they need to communicate this to others. Very often this communication helps clarify thinking.



Year 5 and 6 children on their residential camp working together to build shelters.



Year 6 children working collaboratively on a science investigation.

2. Improves Social Interactions, Supports Diversity and Fosters the Development of Interpersonal Relationships

For collaborative learning to work, students must work together cooperatively. When students spend their time together working, they learn how to relate with one another. They also make friendships by getting to know each other, thus boosting morale and achievement. At times working in a group can be tricky. Each of us is unique and we behave very differently to each other.

Children have to learn essential skills to; listen, negotiate, justify, explain, manage conflict and work effectively as a team. Collaborative learning ensures peer support for our less confident learners so that they are fully included and achieve success.



Group work



Children enjoy playing collaboratively at break-times.



Development of interpersonal skills through social interaction

3. Development of Oral Communication Skills

Many of our learners do not speak English as a first language. For their English confidence and competence to fully develop, they need regular opportunity to speak and listen. Collaborative learning enables this in a very relaxed, informal environment, supported by and learning with their peers. To work effectively, group discussion relies on strong communication skills; sending information, receiving feedback, and sharing it with others.



Children work collaboratively on Discovery Projects. We also very much welcome the involvement of parents in celebrating our learning.



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