

The educational field is a complex system, with many organizations and professionals. Multiple professionals and disciplines interact with each other to provide successful educational experiences for children. While some of this data is anecdotal, these data help to confirm the role these teams play in a successful educational environment. Strong teamwork, improved communication, a commitment to building shared goals, and respectful leadership are important to all. Such collaboration improves overall team functioning and impacts the academic achievement of all children. Everyone benefits, but more research is needed to objectively measure these improvements in teamwork and to show that the work of professionals on teams has a direct impact on student achievement. Working with other professionals in schools can be challenging. Issues such as personality discrepancies, disagreements about ideas, theories, and practices, and differences in workloads and salaries are concerns for staff working in groups. Keys to successful interprofessional planning include shared goals for children, specific intervention strategies to address student profiles, and regular communication among team members. Proponents of interprofessional collaboration cite the benefits for all involved and suggest small, manageable steps as strategies for addressing a variety of relationship issues. Some of the areas in which cooperation is difficult to achieve can be identified. This multi-professional interaction can lead to strengths as well as conflicts among team members and roles and inconsistencies in decisions made on behalf of the child.