



## Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Outreach Programs

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# Let's Be Real: Building and Maintaining Collaborative Relationships within the Team

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### Objectives

- Shared understanding of elements of collaborative relationships
- Realistic strategies for building relationships with all team members
- Approaches that maintain effective teaming throughout the busy school year

### Who Are the Team Members?

Slide contains an image of a group of professionals evaluating a child in a home environment.

1. Family and Student
2. Classroom teacher(s)
3. TSVI, COMS, TDHH
4. Related service providers
5. Administrators
6. Outside agencies- ECI, Blind Children's Program, TWC, etc

## Collaborative Relationships

Collaboration is the act of working together to accomplish a common goal. Effective collaboration involves the following:

- Mutual respect
- Communication
- Built trust
- Investment
- Shared responsibility

Slide contains an image of two women working together in front of a computer.

## Why Do It?

- It's all about the student...not you
- It's not about the system or process
- It benefits everyone on the team
- It increases productivity in the long term
- It eliminates the "battle"
- It models communication and self-advocacy skills for the student

Slide contains an image of a young boy wearing a robot costume.

## A Positive Approach

- Assume best intentions
- Assume competency
- Assume a shared goal
- Embrace as an imperfect and ongoing process

## Team Development Process

Tuckmen's Model for Nurturing a Team to High Performance

<https://www.mindtools.com/abyj5fi/forming-storming-norming-and-performing>

## Strategies for Connections

- Avoid recipe thinking
- Show curiosity
- Cultural humility
- Move beyond positions to interests
- Who's the "Ambassador"?

Slide contains an image of a "smiling" key.

## Maintaining Collaborative Relationships

- Recognize individual and team stressors
- Individual check-ins
- Celebrate successes
- Find time to laugh together

Slide contains an image of two versions of this journey. The first is how you think it will be, which is a smooth diagonal line with an arrow pointing upward at the end. The second is how it really is, which is a looping line with lots of twirls and ups and downs.

## Resources

[Encouraging Collaboration: Beginning of the School Year Advice for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments \(TSVIs\)](#) by Emily Leeper, Texas SenseAbilities Spring 2023

[Early Childhood Intervention \(ECI\): Establishing Relationships with Families](#) by Nicole Wood, Texas SenseAbilities Spring 2023

[Texas SenseAbilities 2023 Special Issue on Family Engagement: Lessons Learned From Our Families](#)

### **Questions? You can contact us at:**

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**Thank you!**