BM-S6: Ability to collaborate effectively with team members and families.

BM-S8: Ability to recognize early warning signs of social and/or emotional difficulties.

The Importance of Collaboration

For this activity, think of a time in which you worked as a collaborative team member in a school environment. This could include a child study team, pre-referral team, teacher support team, or any other situation in which you collaborated with other staff members. If you have not worked in schools before, think of any time in your life in which you worked collaboratively with a group of people.

After you have identified the situation, ask yourself the following questions about your collaboration experience. Keep your thoughts and answers specific to the situation that you have identified. For each of the following questions describe your answers and include examples of things that you did or didn’t do or others did or didn’t do that support your answers.

1. Did I believe I was an equal partner on the team? Did I do my share of problem solving and planning?

2. Did I treat others on the team as individuals and avoid letting past difficult experiences with educators/families get in the way of a good working relationship?

3. Did I express hope through my attitudes and words, and avoid blaming and stating absolutes like “always” and “never”?
4. Did I arrive for meetings on time and stay for the whole meeting?

5. Did I avoid passing judgment on others?

6. Did I resolve- and encourage other team members to resolve- personal conflicts outside of team meetings?

7. Did I commit sufficient time and energy to develop a comprehensive and supportive plan?
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8. Did I distinguish between fact and opinion when discussing challenging behavior (or other topics)?

9. Did I follow through and complete tasks in a timely fashion?