



Best Practices in Creating Successful Collaborations: Lessons Learned from the National Girls Collaborative Project

PREPARE *to collaborate*

1. Reflect on past collaborations and the characteristics of successful or ineffective collaborations.
2. Create a short summary of your research findings/program products, and services for easy sharing when you first meet potential collaborators.
3. Identify your program/institutional strengths and challenges.
4. Identify the program/institutional resources you have to offer.
5. Identify the program/institutional/research needs you have.

LOOK *for collaborators*

6. Locate the “home” for the audience who can benefit from your research findings/program products, and services.
7. Identify assistance or guides that can help you.
8. Network with purpose.

PLAN *for a successful collaboration*

9. Be flexible and patient.
10. Be explicit about project benefits for each partner.
11. Create a collaboration agreement.

BUILD *a successful collaborative project*

12. Communicate frequently to move the work forward.
13. Adapt as project personnel, plans, and needs change.
14. Celebrate successes.
15. Debrief the collaboration.

Collaboration References

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