

Anoka-Hennepin Schools CHILD CARE COLLABORATIVE



Child Care Collaborative FAQs

What is the Child Care Collaborative?

Great question! It's a tricky one too, because every Collaborative relationship looks different! In a nutshell, any licensed child care provider within the Anoka-Hennepin school district can reach out to the Collaborative via an online application form. The provider is then matched with a licensed Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) teacher. The provider and the teacher work together to determine areas in which the provider would like more information, resources or support, and then develop a plan to meet those needs.

What is the cost for these services?

There is no financial cost for the Collaborative's services. Your investment is your time spent working with your Collaborative teacher and implementing what you've learned.

I am really busy. I just don't want to take on one more thing.

We hear you. The Collaborative teacher will work with you to develop a plan that works for YOU. Maybe you're looking for some specific resources, and a phone call or email exchange is perfect. If you prefer some time to sit down and brainstorm together, we offer in-person or virtual visits over naptime. Looking for a partner in setting some longer-term goals for the program, and working together to meet those goals? Our visits can be done when children are present to practice the strategies we are working on. We can set up a visit every other week – or every month, if that works better!

The Collaborative experience is designed to be a benefit, not a burden. We meet you where you are at.

What kinds of things can you do for me?

We do lots of things, but here are some common requests we hear from providers:

- I need some help with behavior management.
- What exactly do I need to do to get these kids ready for kindergarten?
- How do I get these kids to clean up?
- I need some ideas that will work for my infants *and* my school-age children.
- I'm burned out. I love the kids, but I feel so isolated.
- I need some ideas for teaching math skills.
- I have a difficult family and I need some guidance.

Child Care Collaborative FAQs - continued

What does a visit look like?

Because we can work with you on a variety of needs, the visits can vary quite a bit too. Visits are usually in person, but we can also do visits via telephone or video. Sometimes we will model a “circle time” with the children and work on some sort of lesson. Sometimes a provider would like us to observe their interactions with the group in order to get feedback or ideas. Other times we may meet over a naptime to discuss different ways to assess and communicate progress to parents. We can also help you implement new strategies with your group, like ideas for transition times, introducing a calming corner, or re-teaching clean up procedures. We can even team with you and a child’s family to help meet their needs and connect them to resources.

I already have a licenser and Parent Aware coach, the Collaborative is just one more thing.

We are not affiliated with either of these organizations and we have no impact on your license or funding. The goal of the Collaborative is not to add paperwork or requirements; rather, we are here to help you meet the goals you have for your program.

If you are working for a Parent Aware rating already, the Collaborative could help you to meet those goals.

Sounds okay...but what’s the catch?

We don’t think there is a catch. For transparency purposes, this is what is expected of you:

- Work collaboratively with the ECFE teacher.
- Be engaged in the visits. Your Collaborative teacher is there to support YOU! While we love interacting with your kiddos, we are not there to replace you.
- Make efforts to implement new strategies and resources.
- Keep your scheduled visits and communicate timely with any changes.

I’m ready to move forward, what’s my next step?

- Visit our website – ahschools.us/ChildCareCollaborative – to complete the online application.
- Have more questions? Call 763-506-6187.