



IRREFUTABLE INFLUENCE

THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL CULTURE ON STUDENT INTERVENTION SUCCESS

Rosemary Tralli, Ph.D.

Chapter 5

Collaborative Problem-Solving

Collaboration is the essence of life. The weeds, bees and flowers work together to spread the pollen.

– Amit Ray

Every intervention plan must be individualized to meet each student's learning characteristics and setting demands. Problem-solving is a major component of the process. Every step requires careful deliberation and attention to cultural biases. Teams need to learn, apply, and evaluate their use of the problem-solving process. Effective teams can assess the caliber of their student intervention plans through a reflective team process. A systematic and cyclic progression of planning, implementation and evaluation can maximize student support.

Step 1: Target the Right Issue

When our son Justin was nine years old, he developed chronic issues with his knees. It was frightening to watch him experience episodes of sudden and agonizing pain. Our pediatrician recommended that Justin see an orthopedist, and we quickly complied. The orthopedist recommended knee surgery. My husband and I were reluctant to agree to such drastic measures and sought additional medical advice through a local children's hospital. Eventually, Justin was accurately diagnosed with Lyme Disease, and he was treated effectively through medication and physical therapy. If we had approved the surgery, the real problem would not have been solved.