

Collaborative Teaming

I-Team Training Resource

June 2026



Vermont I-Team

Interdisciplinary Support for Inclusion

Contributors



Ashley Couture,
Communication
Consultant



Chelsea
Deraway,
Communication
Consultant



Michele
Streeter, Family
Resource
Consultant



Valerie
Richardson,
Family Resource
Consultant



Jayson
Capobianco,
Transition
Consultant



Vermont I-Team
Interdisciplinary Support for Inclusion

Learning Objectives



1

Gain understanding of the benefits and importance of collaborative teaming.



2

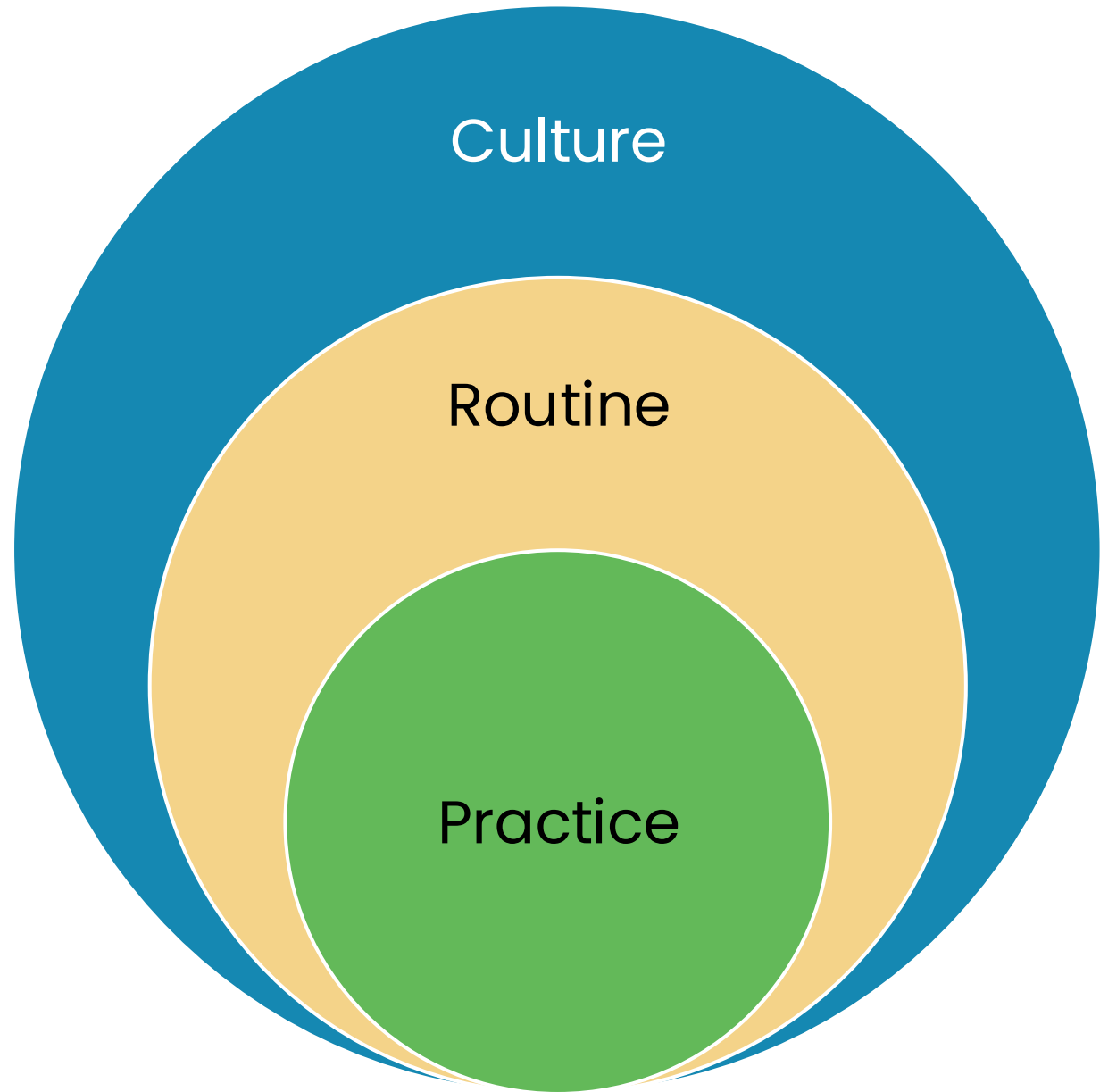
Take away a tool that will support one next step toward intentional collaborative team meeting plans.



3

Receive resources for additional tools and strategies to support collaborative teaming.

The Core of Collaborative Teaming



So, let's practice!

1. [Open the *Big \(or not so big\) Ideas* worksheet.](#)
2. Use it to jot down your "Ah ha!" ideas & goals for growth.



***Big (or not so big) Ideas
Goals for Growth***

Regular team meetings

Set meeting goals

Clarify Roles

Routines

Background

- State entities identify a common problem (systemic)
- Vermont I-Team observes teams struggling with this (real)
- There is lack of shared understanding (knowledge barriers)

Valuing Collaboration

The importance of having a commitment to a deliberate process indicates value

We value...

- The perspective and input of ALL team members
- Inclusion of the student and family collaborators

Importance of Collaboration for Success

- Core driver of student success
- Interdisciplinary practice is how a lot of education happens already

Understanding

Shared understanding (of the student, context, etc.) and Decision Making

- Inclusion of the student and family as collaborators
- More holistic, accurate understanding of the student
- Shared expectations

Quality

It leads to higher quality thinking

- Diversity of perspectives
- Idea generation
- Consistency across settings

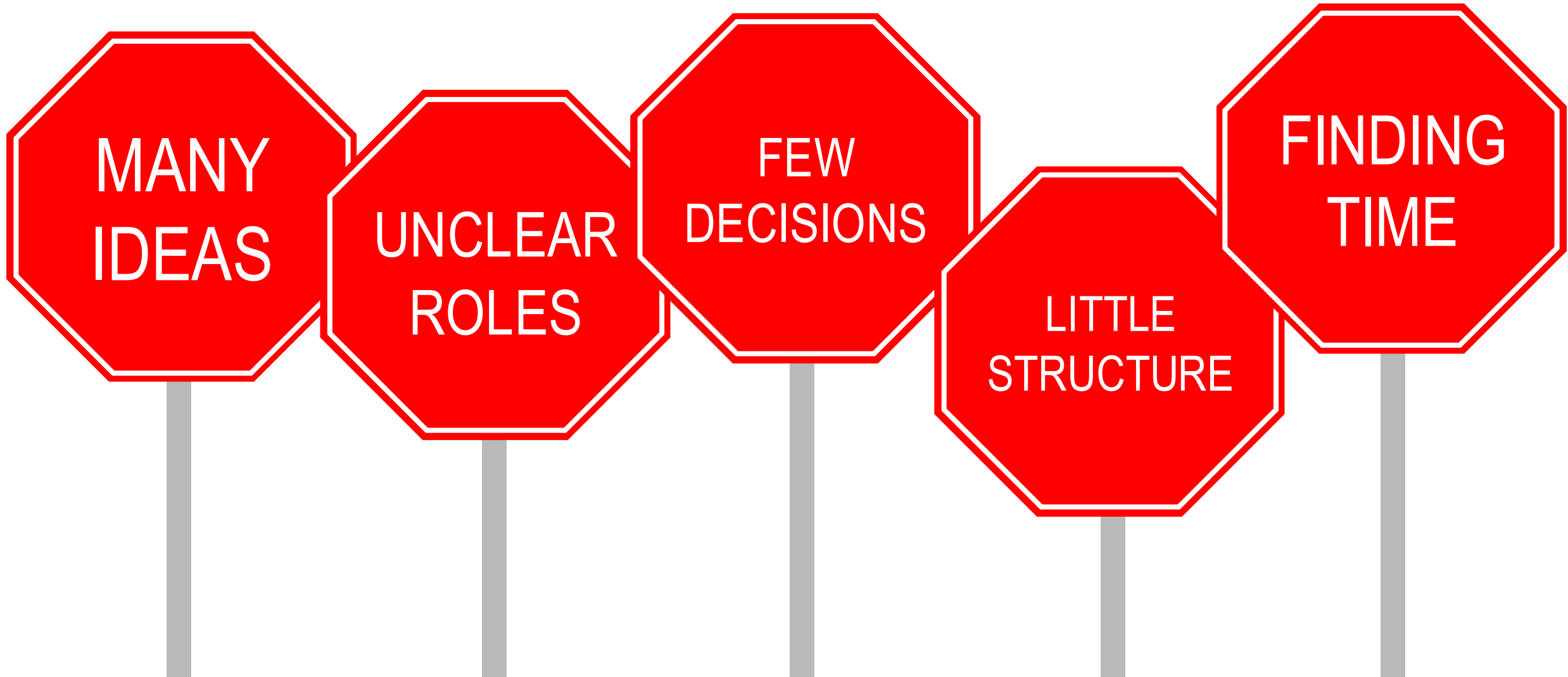
The OUTCOMES

- Stronger, more effective IEPs:
 - better aligned to classroom demands,
 - more individualized
 - Clearer goals, accommodations, and modifications
- Efficiency (division of labor)

More BENEFITS

- Faster problem solving
- Reduce burnout
 - distribute responsibility
 - problem-solving support
 - reduced isolation and frustration
 - established process makes it easier
- Meaningful & authentic relationships that support students

Common Challenges and Why Team Meetings Get Stuck



Practices That Help Teams

Include student
and family
perspectives

Set a meeting goal

Assign roles and
next steps

Ensure
participation from
all team members

Maintain regular
collaboration

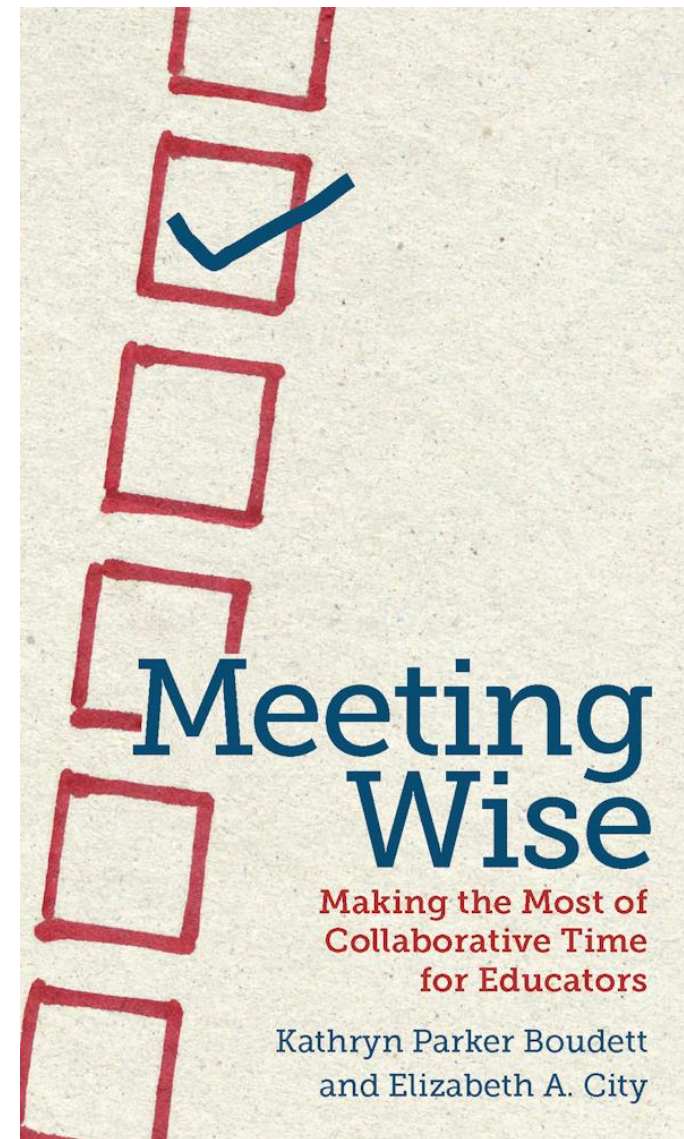
Resources to Support the Practice



DataWise Resources

[Many resources
on website.](#)

Meeting Wise
Agenda
Template



TIES Center

The TIES Lesson for All: 5-15-45 Tool

Explore this
Resource: [15-
Minute Lesson
Planning
Template](#)



15-Minute Lesson Planning Template

Pro Tip: Use this guide to think about the academic content, instruction, activities, and barriers in and teach!

Guiding Questions	Notes Here with sentence starters	Success
What is the content being taught in this lesson? What is most essential for all learners to know?	The most essential grade-level content is...	☐ We have essential
What are the instructional strategies and activities for this lesson? What instructional strategies and activities are most helpful for teaching the essential content ?	We teach this content by.....	☐ We can teach
What is one barrier to learning we anticipate for our student with significant cognitive disabilities? Is it related to student interest or engagement?	One barrier in this lesson for students with significant cognitive disabilities includes	☐ We can our student disability

Meeting Practice in Context

- ✓ Mateo, 5th Grade
- ✓ Process: Team meets, team norms discussed, agenda created and share based on norms agreed upon
- ✓ Team: Student, Family, Teachers, Speech-Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Consultants

Action Plan

- ✓ Goal: Review AAC trial across environments
- ✓ Next Steps: Observations and data collection
- ✓ Timeline: 2 Weeks
- ✓ Upcoming priority: Essential Content of Upcoming Science Lesson
- ✓ Outcome: Consistent communication, shared responsibilities, and structured follow-through

Call to Action

1

Goals for
Growth – use
your BIG IDEA
worksheet!

2

Select a
resource to
explore with
your team.

3

Identify a
team to
schedule a
team meeting
with.

Resources

1. [BIG IDEA Worksheet](#) (.pdf, visual option for writing down your ideas)
2. Harvard Graduate School of Education
[DataWise team resources](#)
[Meeting Wise Agenda Template](#) (book available for purchase – preferred format by I-Team)
3. [TIES Center Lessons for All: The 5-15-45 Tool](#)

References

Boudett, K.P., & City, E.A. (2014). *Meeting Wise: Making the most of collaborative time for educators*. Harvard Education Press.
<https://hep.gse.harvard.edu/9781612506944/meeting-wise/>

Center for Creative Leadership. (2025). *How to Lead a Collaborative Team*. <https://www.ccl.org/articles/leading-effectively-articles/how-to-lead-a-collaborative-team/>

Fialka, J.M., Feldman, A.K., & Mikus, K.C. (2012). *Parents and professionals partnering for children with disabilities: A dance that matters*. Corwin Press. <https://www.corwin.com/books/parents-professionals-partnering-232337>

TIES Center. (2020). *TIES Lessons for All: The 5-15-45 Tool*. <https://publications.ici.umn.edu/ties/5-15-45/overview>

Thank You!!!



© 2002 MICHAEL GIANGRECO, ILLUSTRATIONS KEVIN RUELLE
PEYTRAL PUBLICATIONS, INC. 952-949-8707 www.peytral.com

HERB AND SALLY ADD THE ELUSIVE
"COLLABORATIVE TEAM" TO THEIR
LIFE LIST OF RARE
AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.

This training was created in
partnership with the





Vermont I-Team

Interdisciplinary Support for Inclusion

go.uvm.edu/i-team

Center on Disability & Community Inclusion



University
of Vermont

College of Education
and Social Services

50
years
1974 - 2024

go.uvm.edu/cdci