

What Makes Inclusion Work in Early Childhood?

Vision & Attitude

- There is a vision statement known.
- It supports the belief that all children can and will learn.
- Teams have similar vision and attitudes.
- Staff is supported to question why practices are in place and to suggest improvements.
- All children are considered full members of the classroom community

Formal Time to Plan & Reflect

- Team members honor the time frame determined, coming on time and leaving on time, so that the next meeting can begin.
- Schedules accommodate common planning time.
- Teams use the meeting to look at data collected and plan support for children
- Administration honors time by providing support to meet as a team.

Collaboration & Teaming

- Teams meet regularly. Teams use an agenda, a strategy to document meetings and decisions, and keeps within an allotted time frame.
- General and special education teachers work as a team.
- Teachers and paraeducators use data so that next steps can be discussed at planning meetings.
- Teachers and support staff bring lessons plans to discuss during collaborative meetings.
- Items from previous meetings are reviewed to ensure follow-up.

Family & Community Partnerships

- Families are invited to and participate in meetings.
- Families are communicating with teams, and teams are communicating with families.
- Families are contacted for good news as well as struggles.
- Families are given an opportunity to complete a satisfaction survey.
- Families are linked with community programs/services that support young children and their families.
- Community agencies may come on site to work with families.

Professional Learning

- Staff is supported to implement new strategies learned, such as co-teaching, adapting and modifying.
- Staff adjusts teaching strategies based on new information from professional learning opportunities.
- Staff has time for reflecting and problem solving with others to implement new strategies.
- The system is committed to learning through a variety of venues. Staff has a variety of opportunities for learning.
- Staff uses evidence-based practices.

Evidenced Based Practices

- Teachers are using diverse instructional practices.
- Groups are fluid and based on the needs of individual children
- General and Special Education teachers are coteaching when appropriate.
- Related services are provided within the routine of the general education classroom. Pull out is infrequent.
- Children's progress is continually monitored through authentic assessment.

Adaptations & Support Systems

- Adaptations being used are documented for future reference.
- Accommodations and modifications are determined through the IEP process and are used consistently with children.
- Teams consider a variety of accommodations and modifications before changing an activity for a child
- Natural supports are part of the plan for supporting each child
- Paraeducators are trained and supervised to support children effectively

Administrative Support

- Administrators are supportive of inclusion in concrete and identifiable ways.
- Administration provides leadership to encourage success and break down barriers to inclusion.
- Administration values open communication regarding supports and services for children
- There is a clear line of communication for problem solving.
- Administration clearly supports time for teachers to reflect, problem solve and share decision making.
- The system is unified so that all teachers are teaching, adapting and supporting all children in inclusive settings.