

REFLECTION

Defining Features of Inclusion	What does this look like for me and my team?
<p>Access means providing a wide range of activities and environments for every child by removing physical barriers and offering multiple ways to promote learning and development.</p>	
<p>Participation means using a range of instructional approaches to promote engagement in play and learning activities and a sense of belonging for every child.</p>	
<p>Supports refers to broader aspects of the system such as professional development, incentives for inclusion, and opportunities for communication and collaboration among families and professionals to assure high quality inclusion.</p>	
<p>Additional questions/comments:</p>	

How can I promote a growth mindset?

Think of a situation where you might have "hit a brick wall" or feel stuck. What might you do to shift your thinking towards a growth mindset?

Examples:

- Instead of thinking "**He can't do this**", think "**Up until now, he hasn't learned this yet**".
- Instead of thinking "**This doesn't work**", think "**What are we missing? Who can help us?**"

KEY CONCEPTS

Inclusion includes ACCESS, PARTICIPATION & SUPPORTS!

Inclusion is...

- ...seeing ability, not disability.
- ...children with AND without disabilities learning and growing together.
- ...assuming competence.
- ...a journey.

Definition of Inclusion (from NAEYC & DEC)

“Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports.”

What is Inclusion?

Is	Is not
Membership	Visiting other classes
Embedded supports	Pull out therapy
All children with disabilities included	Limited to some children
A culture and committment	Some staff, some rooms
A journey, part of overall quality	A fixed place, optional
www.eclre.org	

Why is Inclusion Important?

- ✓ Research says when young children with disabilities are included with their same age peers without disabilities **all children benefit.**
- ✓ Inclusion **increases the rate of progress** (developmental and learning) in development of stronger social emotional skills.
- ✓ Inclusion results in **increased quality for all children** in the program.

Why is Collaboration Important?

Parents, teachers, and specialists working together is a cornerstone of high quality inclusion (see [Research Synthesis Points on Early Childhood Inclusion, pdf](#)).

Download

[Each and Every Child Inclusion Brochure \(pdf\)](#) from Early CHOICES

EXTEND YOUR LEARNING

Collaboration is Key!

Collaboration among parents, teachers, and specialists is a cornerstone of high quality inclusion (see [Research Synthesis Points on Early Childhood Inclusion](#), pdf). Reflect on what collaboration looks like for you and what you wish it to look like for you and your team. Brainstorm ideas and any action steps to apply.

What does collaboration look like for you and your team?

What would you like collaboration to look for your team?

How can you improve collaboration among your team?

Use the space below to list any action steps, activities or resources you want to explore to help you promote collaboration (e.g. Teaming and Collaboration [Practice Guides for Families](#) and [Performance Checklists](#) from ECTA).