Early CHOICES
A Preschool LRE Initiative
of the Illinois State Board of Education

REFLECTION

What does LRE mean to you?

After watching the YouTube video *Least Restrictive Environment Animated Introduction* (runtime 3:46), use the space below to reflect on your experiences and note any questions.

What are your hopes and dreams?

From the moment we become educators, we have hopes and dreams. Perhaps some of your hopes and dreams for the children and families you serve include increasing independence and a sense of self-worth. You might also want to help families become effective advocates and teach children to become self-sufficient and successful. Use the space below to list your hopes and dreams for the children and families you serve.

GROWTH MINDSET & INCLUSION

INSTEAD OF THINKING... (FIXED MINDSET)	TRY THINKING... (GROWTH MINDSET)
• HE IS NOT READY FOR SCHOOL.	• HOW CAN WE GET SCHOOL READY FOR HIM?
• WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES.	• WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE RESOURCES I HAVE?
• SHE NEEDS TO BE PULLED OUT TO A SEPARATE SETTING.	• HOW CAN I MAKE SURE SHE HAS A SENSE OF BELONGING?
• I NEED MORE EDUCATION ASSISTANT TIME.	• WHAT CAN HE DO INDEPENDENTLY?
• WE HAVE TRIED THIS STRATEGY BEFORE.	• DID ANY PART OF IT WORK?
• I WASN'T TRAINED FOR THIS.	• WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

WHEN A FLOWER DOESN'T BLOOM YOU FIX THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH IT GROWS, NOT THE FLOWER.

Alex Den Heijer

FREE DOWNLOAD: northstarpaths.com

How can having a Growth Mindset help?

Describe some ways a growth mindset, Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and inclusion may support you and team.

KEY CONCEPTS

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is…

…NOT a place, but a package of supports and services.

…Different for each child.

…Based on individual needs.

…Determined by the Individualized Education Program (or IEP) team (this includes you!).

Definition of Least Restrictive Environment (from IDEA)

"To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular education environment occurs ONLY when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily."

LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT 34 C.F.R. §300.550 (b)(1)-(2)

LRE	INCLUSION
The LRE is the language in the law that defines the environment in which services are received.	Inclusion embodies the values, policies and practices that support a child having full membership in their classroom and community, regardless of ability.

Source: DEC/NAEYC joint position statement on early childhood inclusion (2009)

EXAMPLES OF SUPPLEMENTAL AIDS & SERVICES

- Assistive technology devices, such as an adaptive chair
- Visual supports that help the child participate and learn during routine classroom activities
- Related services such as a speech language pathologist, physical therapist or occupational therapist that comes into the classroom to support the child and teacher

Identified together with the family to help reach educational goals and objectives identified in the IEP

Learning with and from Each Other!

We can learn through hearing each other's experiences. Reflect on your story. What would you like to share with other families, school personnel, or people you meet? How can your story help others? Use the space to capture your story or write it separately. Then consider the ways you might network with others to share your story.

YOUR STORY

REFLECT

- ✓ Consider your hopes & dreams
- ✓ What do you want your story to be?
- ✓ What is the story you want to tell?
- ✓ How, when and where do you want to tell it?

SEEK OTHERS

- ✓ Connect with team members
- ✓ Join a community of practice or professional learning group
- ✓ Use social media to share your success stories
- ✓ Attend Interagency Council Meetings
- ✓ Attend learning opportunities to support inclusion

SHARE RESPONSIBLY

- ✓ Choose a safe platform you trust
- ✓ Consider the family and child's privacy
- ✓ Remain positive and constructive even when sharing challenges (we can learn from challenges too!)