

Benefits to Inclusive Practices

REFLECTION

Putting Your Vision into Action

After watching the YouTube video [The Value of Inclusion](#) (runtime 2:10), reflect on the benefits of inclusion. Use the space below to capture your thoughts and questions.

Inclusion benefits children, families & communities!

Benefits for the child

Benefits for the family

Benefits for the community

KEY CONCEPTS

The benefits of inclusion are many! Below is a list of how inclusion benefits children, families, and communities.

Benefits for the child

- Helps children with and without disabilities benefit across areas of development.
- Gains significant results in developmental and learning progress for children with disabilities.
- Develops stronger social-emotional skills in children with disabilities than their peers in non-inclusive settings.

Benefits for families

- Encourages acceptance of differences to families with children who do not have disabilities.
- Models acceptance for children. Parents are a child's first teacher, so in being more accepting, their children may be too.
- Supports families through resource sharing, learning from each other, and being an active member of the school community.

Benefits for communities

- Supports children with disabilities in reaching their full potential, which benefits our whole society.
- Teaches children to recognize everyone's uniqueness as well as commonalities.
- Develops an understanding of fairness and equity in children, which is necessary for a just society.

Brief Summary: Fact Sheet of Research on
Preschool Inclusion

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- 1 In 27 years, the practice of providing special education and related services in regular early childhood settings to preschoolers with disabilities has increased only 5.7% and many young children with disabilities continue to be educated in separate settings.^{1,2}
- 2 Inclusion benefits children with and without disabilities.^{3,4,5,6,7}
- 3 The quality of preschool programs including at least one student with a disability were as good as or better than preschool programs without children with disabilities. However, traditional measures of early childhood program quality might not be sufficient for assessing quality of programs that include children with disabilities.^{8,9}
- 4 Children with disabilities can be effectively educated in inclusive programs using specialized instruction.^{10,11,12,13}
- 5 Parents and teachers influence children's values regarding disabilities.^{14,15,16}
- 6 Individualized embedded instruction can be used to teach a variety of skills, including those related to early learning standards, and promote participation in inclusive preschool programs to children with and without disabilities.^{17,18,19,20,21}
- 7 Families of children with and without disabilities generally have positive views of inclusion.^{22,23}
- 8 Inclusion is not more expensive than having separate programs for children with disabilities.^{24,25}
- 9 Successful inclusion requires intentional and effective collaboration and teaming.^{26,*}
- 10 The individual outcomes of preschool inclusion should include access, membership, participation, friendships, and support.^{27,*}
- 11 Children with disabilities do not need to be "ready" to be included. Programs need to be "ready" to support all children.^{27,*}

Note. A sample of empirical citations are provided for each "fact." Thus, this fact sheet does not provide a comprehensive list of the references for each "fact." The citations were intentionally identified to include recent references, representation across disabilities when possible, and studies using rigorous methods.

*These facts are based on principles guiding the field of early childhood special education, recommended practices, and our collective knowledge and experiences.

Research to Support the
Benefits of Inclusion

The [Brief Summary: Fact Sheet on Research on Preschool Inclusion](#) (pdf) from Barton and Smith (June 2014) is an overview of what the research says to support preschool inclusion. The end notes and references point to the direct sources.

EXTEND YOUR LEARNING

Sharing the Benefits of Inclusion with Confidence!

When talking with a friend, family member, neighbor, doctor, childcare provider, teacher, practitioner, administrator, or others, have you ever wished you had more facts or information to help explain why inclusion is important?



It can be hard to correct misinformation or outdated beliefs in others, which is why knowing the research and facts around inclusion can be one of the best ways to advocate for children and families.

Working through the steps below should help your understanding of what the research says and allow you to become more familiar with the facts on inclusion!

Step 1: Review

Download and read the [Brief Summary: Fact Sheet on Research on Preschool Inclusion](#) (pdf) to get an overview of what the research says about preschool inclusion.

Step 2: Reflect

Reflect on a past conversation or a talk you anticipate having. What ideas or concepts do you wish you could communicate with confidence? What research supports your message?

What I Want to Say	What Supports What I Say

Step 3: Reinforcement

For additional support, consider the following questions and write any responses in the space below:

What else can I use or share from what I've learned?	How else can I build my confidence in discussing inclusion?	Who and/or what else will help me continue learning about inclusion?