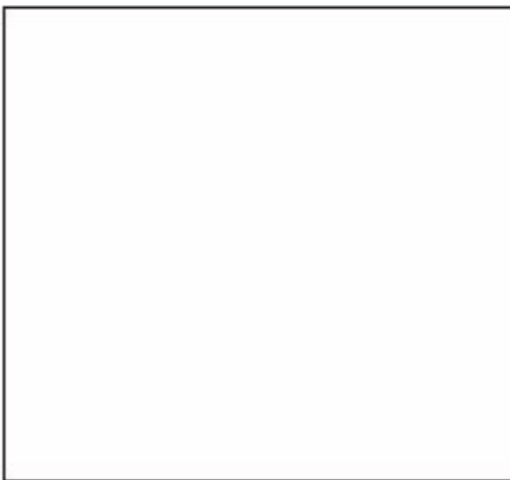


What is inclusion?

Inclusion is an attitude and a philosophy that welcomes and supports all children. Inclusion is a sense of belonging created by a community where children with and without disabilities are respected and valued as contributing members.



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www.meaf.org
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www.kitonline.org.

www.easterseals.com

Our Program is Inclusive!



What does inclusion mean for our program?

Children with disabilities participate with their peers without disabilities in all activities and aspects of our program community.

We value ability differences and we make respectful accommodations to help all children to be successful.

What is a respectful accommodation?

A respectful accommodation is an individualized support that promotes access to learning or recreation and leisure or work. It is a change or modification made to expectations, requirements, materials, or the environment. An accommodation can physically, socially, or emotionally support the inclusion of a child with a disability in an activity.

How do we make accommodations?

Based on each child as an individual, we figure out what needs to be changed so that the child can successfully participate. Once we discover the areas that need modifications, we make respectful accommodations. We use our knowledge of the child and input from the family to assure the accommodations are appropriate. Special attention is given to safety and fading or eliminating accommodations once the child does not need them to succeed.

Why do we support inclusion?

Inclusion benefits all children. Children with disabilities learn important social skills from peer models, have the chance to make friends, explore their own interests and talents, and experience being a part of their community. Children without disabilities gain a better understanding of disability as a natural part of life. They learn to recognize that we all have strengths and limitations and that ability differences are just one aspect of who we are as individuals.

How do we support inclusion?

Our program recognizes that partnerships with families are our greatest resource in supporting all children. Through these partnerships, we discover the types of accommodations that will help each child be meaningfully included. By partnering with families and making accommodations, our program is able to welcome and support all children. We may also partner with outside agencies and local resources to ensure our program's quality.

Our inclusive program, our inclusive community

Creating communities where children with and without disabilities live, learn, and play together strengthens the community as a whole. All children and families have the right to actively participate in community life, and our program embraces all families and their unique strengths and challenges.

