

INCLUSION

"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar"- Hellen keller

You learn to read by Reading!

You learn to write by Writing!

You learn to think by Thinking!

You learn to include by Including!

What is Inclusion?

Inclusion is a part of much larger picture than just placement in the regular class within school. It is being included in life and participating using one's abilities in day to day activities as a member of the community. It is being a part of what everyone else is, and being welcomed and embraced as a member who belongs. Inclusion should happen in schools, playgrounds, work and in recreation.

Inclusion provides a sense of belonging, being loved, having relationships and friendships with others enriches our lives. Feelings of loneliness and alienation can have a negative impact in all areas of our lives.

Children with disabilities are first and foremost children, and then children who may need support or adaptations for learning. The term "special needs" refers to a wide range of developmental disabilities or learning needs that may occur in different areas and in varying degrees.

The easiest option for people traditionally has been to remove the children with special needs out of the regular classrooms and they are grouped together as if all their needs were alike. Whereas in reality each and every child has such diverse needs even if they have the same disability. In the general awareness scenario, people accept the fact that every child is different and unique with their own individualities and the same truth exists even for the children with special needs.

In school, inclusion does not occur just by placement in the regular class alone, even though it is the desired end result. It must be created with proper planning, preparation and support system. The fundamental principle of inclusive education is the valuing of diversity within the human race.

When inclusive education is fully embraced, one abandons the idea that children have to become "normal" in order to contribute something to the world and do not try to show sympathy for them. People begin to look beyond typical ways of becoming valued members of the community, and in doing so, begin to realize the achievable goal of providing all children with an authentic sense of belonging.

Inclusion in school requires a shift in the paradigm, instead of getting the child ready for the regular class, the regular class gets ready for the child. It's not a decision of having nothing or changing everything in the classroom. A balance can be achieved in the classroom to maximize meeting of all child's needs. The regular class is not looked at as how it is, but how it "can be". Adaptations are made to the materials, the curriculum, and or the expectations of the activities for the individual child, maintaining achievement of all individual and academic goals. The purpose isn't simply social or academic, but to meet all of a child's needs together wherever possible.

Through Inclusive education children with disabilities remain on a path that leads to an adult life as participating member of a society. Meeting all their needs together increases their ability to achieve academic and physical growth to their potential, and it enhances their overall quality of life.

Inclusive education teaches all children team work and how to interrelate and function together with others of different abilities. They learn to value diversity, see the ability of others to contribute and it gives children a sense of unity.

It is very important to recognize that children with special needs require efficient, effective and functional instruction directed at achieving socially and educationally valid outcomes. It is the teachers' responsibility to identify the nature of each child's needs and the extent to which accommodations and supports will be necessary for each child to be successful. Instructional arrangements, curriculum contents and instructional procedures can and should be varied to coincide with the intensity of each child's learning needs.