Preschool Inclusive Practices

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Today we will examine ..... 

- What is preschool inclusion?
- Why do we have preschool inclusion?
- What are the benefits of preschool inclusion?
- What does it look like in practice?
Inclusion Journey......
How far have we come?

- Inclusion
- Exclusion
- Segregation
- Integration
Inclusion Journey......
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Inclusion Journey......
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Inclusion Journey......
How do we get here?

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Legal Foundations of Preschool Inclusion

- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
Federal Policy Statement
Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs

www.ed.gov/early-learning
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd
Why should we provide inclusive services?

What are the benefits?
Benefits of Inclusive Services

- So that children will learn the skills they need in the places they will use them
- So that children have increased practice opportunities
- So that a child does not miss out on any classroom activities
- So that teachers can see what therapists do to help children and expand their skills
- So that teachers and therapists focus on skills that will be immediately useful for the child
- Because it is the right thing to do!
Let’s Not Forget Friendship
High Quality Preschool Inclusion is...

• when a student with a disability is a valued member of the classroom and school community
• where preschoolers with disabilities are meaningfully engaging and participating with their peers
• not just a space or geography it is attitudes, beliefs and culture
High Quality Preschool Inclusion is not....

- saying every child will always be fully included at all times.
- when students are expected to be ready for regular education
- only students with mild delays are included and students with the most significant delays are in segregated special education classrooms.
- placing a child in regular education without the appropriate supports.
Inclusion in EC Programs Refers to:

• including children with disabilities in general early childhood programs together with their peers without disabilities;
  - (ACCESS)

• holding high expectations and intentionally promoting participation in all learning and social activities, facilitated by individualized accommodations; and
  - (PARTICIPATION)

• using evidence-based services and supports to foster their development, friendships with peers, and sense of belonging.
  - (SUPPORTS)
How can I support inclusive services for my child?

Assessment        IEP        Placement        Services        Partnership
You are the most important person in your child's life.

Partner with your school district and be an advocate for your child.
Early Childhood Special Education

Meaningful Inclusion in Early Childhood

Meaningful Inclusion Early Childhood Transcript

https://youtu.be/a2wJqDw9B68
Thank You!

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