INCLUSION

What is Inclusive Education?

Inclusion recognizes every individual's right to be treated equally and to receive the same services and opportunities as everyone else. Inclusive learning environments ensure that everyone feels a sense of belonging, is accepted, receives needed supports, and is encouraged by peers and school personnel in the course of having educational needs fulfilled. Students are educated in the general education classrooms with their peers to the greatest extent possible. Not all students study the exact curriculum. Instead, they learn together and have adjustments in the curriculum to meet individual needs.

Characteristics of Inclusive Educational Models

- The general education classrooms are modified to meet individual needs
- Collaborative teams share leadership responsibility
- Students and teachers learn from each other and solve problems together
- Instruction is aimed to match the needs of students at all levels of achievement
- Grade-level placement and individual curricular content are independent of each other
- Instruction is active, creative, and collaborative among members of the classroom
- Activities are designed to include all students though participation levels may vary
- The classroom teacher, special educators, related service staff, and families share ownership for educating all students
- Students are evaluated by individually appropriate standards
- The system of education is considered successful when it strives to meet each student's needs. Students' success is achieved when both individual and group goals are met.

(Source: Walter-Thomas, et al., 2000)

Tips on Developing Inclusive Environments for Students with Autism

- Utilize and advocated for better assessments of students with autism that will provide detailed information regarding strengths, difficulties, and support services needed for functional and academic skills
- Develop a unique profile of the student that encompasses strengths, needs, as well as communication and learning styles
- Be aware of the impact of the environment and events which may effect the student and accommodations to minimize such effects (e.g. visual cues for transitions)
- Provide a full array of supports to include such things as computer assisted technology, tutors, speech/language therapy, behavior intervention plans, and class work accommodations
- Provide the student with the choice to participate in all activities of the school and support such choices
- Develop and implement an educational program that goes beyond compliance models
- Promote acceptance and diversity within activities and curriculum
- Encourage all students to value the contributions of all their peers
- BE FLEXIBLE

For More Information

Please visit one of the following websites:

http://www.inclusion.com
http://www.autcom.org
http://www.disabilityresources.org
http://www.ideallives.com