



Child Care Resources Inc.

tip sheet

Ideas and information about child development and early education for parents, professionals and the community-at-large.

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Access this and other tip sheets through the CCRI FaxBack Line: **(704) 335-9421**

child care search

Resource & referral service

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Why Inclusion?

All children learn through play regardless of race, religion, socio-economic background or developmental disability.

Children with special needs require teachers' assistance in adapting toys, games and activities to meet their needs. These adaptations help to increase their ability to participate in play activities and experience success.

Children with differing abilities require different types of adaptations. When planning lessons and activities, the needs of the individual children in the group must be taken into consideration to insure that they are included to the greatest extent possible.

Although many of the activities and materials available are suggested specifically for children with certain developmental disabilities, all children can learn from them. By encouraging all of your students to participate in activities to the extent possible, and allowing all of the students (those with and without disabilities) to explore any specially adapted equipment, you can increase the feeling of inclusion for all the children.

Who are children with disabilities or special needs?

- A. First and most important, children with special needs are just children. They are more like other children than they are different.
- B. The disability is only one aspect of the child's total picture of strengths and weaknesses.
- C. 10-12% of all children have some kind of disability.

Why serve children with special needs in integrated settings?

Advantages to children with special needs:

1. They are part of the community.
2. The typically developing children can serve as models.
3. Their peers provide a reason/motivation to communicate.
4. Their independence is encouraged.
5. Their life style is normalized.
6. They are encouraged to strive for greater achievements when they see the abilities of peers.
7. They are able to learn skills within natural settings.

Advantages to children who are normally developing:

1. They learn to accept and be comfortable with individual differences.
2. They are exposed to diversity in their friendships.
3. They are encouraged to cooperate with peers.
4. Their attitudes become more positive when they see and experience typically developing children and children with disabilities playing together regularly.
5. They become more resourceful and creative.
6. Their self concept and the spirit of helping are promoted.