

Foundations of Inclusion Glossary



Access - one of the defining features of inclusion, access means providing a wide range of activities and environments for every child by removing physical barriers and offering multiple ways to promote learning and development

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Evidence-based practice - specific practices that have been found to be effective (or promising) through research

Inclusion - the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society

Individualized Education Program (IEP) - a written education plan for a child with disabilities (ages 3-21) developed by a team of professionals (e.g., teachers, therapists) and the child's parents; it is reviewed and updated yearly and describes how the child is presently doing, what the child's learning needs are, and what services the child will need

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) - a written plan for an infant or toddler with disabilities (birth-3) developed by a team of professionals (e.g., teachers, therapists) and the child's family; it is reviewed and updated yearly and describes how the child is presently doing, what the child's learning needs are, and what services the child will need

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - the law ensuring special education services to children with disabilities; IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services

NAEYC - the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the major professional organization for early childhood educators

Participation - one of the defining features of inclusion, participation means using a range of instructional approaches to promote engagement in play and learning activities, and a sense of belonging for every child

Policy - serves as the foundation for a course of action to be taken at the federal, state, or local level. Policy making has four main components

Research Synthesis - is the result of a systematic analysis of multiple published studies on a particular topic or practice that meet specific criteria (e.g., evaluate a specific practice for a specific age group).

Supports - one of the defining features of inclusion, supports refer to broader aspects of the system such as professional development, incentives for inclusion, and opportunities for communication and collaboration among families and professionals to assure high quality inclusion