



Including Children with Disabilities in Your Program

A Delaware Family Child Provider noticed that a child in her care seemed to learn differently and not at the same pace as the other children. She saw that the child was developmentally falling behind. She talked with the family and with Child Find. It took 6 months but now the child is getting speech therapy and special education services in her family child care program.

This story really shows the important role child care providers play in the lives of young children and their families. For children with disabilities, the impact of getting needed services and being included can have an even greater impact on their lives. Please read on to learn more about the benefits, policy and professional development on inclusion of children with disabilities in child care.

Benefits of Inclusion

Inclusion isn't just the law, it's the right thing to do!

- Young children with disabilities are a part of the community and should be where they would be if they didn't have a disability.
- All children will learn that we are all different, they will learn to accept the differences, to talk about them and understand them.
- All the children, developmentally, benefit from the accommodations, modifications and supports put in place for children with disabilities by providing alternative ways to learn the same things.
- Early Childhood Education professionals feel empowered with the knowledge that they can include children with disabilities with great success.
- Families of children with disabilities will feel included and part of the community. Families want their child to be accepted, to grow up with neighborhood friends, to feel welcomed.

Federal Policy on Inclusion

- The Departments of Education and Health and Human Services issued a [policy](#) on inclusion, including recommendations to child care providers.
- [A Child Care Professionals Guide: The American's with Disabilities Act](#)
- [Delaware's Guide to Promoting Inclusion in Early Childhood](#)



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Professional Development to Support Inclusion

Online Inclusion Training- 5 hours of quality assured professional development- **FREE!**

- why inclusion is so important
- legal requirements
- strategies for working with families
- preparing programs to be ready to include all children in early care and education settings.

Register on dieecpd.org

Log onto the training calendar and click on the online training tab, then select Inclusion. For assistance call 302-831-3239

Stay tuned for more information, resources, and services that support child care providers with inclusion of children with disabilities in upcoming editions of REACH.