

INCLUSION DOS, DON'TS AND DO BETTERS

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23 DOS

28 DON'TS

32 DO BETTERS

WHAT IS INCLUSION?

Schools have evolved from educating students with special needs in separate classrooms and segregated settings to educating students with and without disabilities side by side as collaborative peers within inclusive classrooms. The general education classroom is the least restrictive environment that is viewed as the first placement option under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The crux of inclusion is that staff are qualified, supported and prepared with knowledge of their students and the appropriate individualised instructional strategies.

Inclusion is not a program but a preparation for life. The dilemma arises because no student is a clone of the next. There are five key areas to address when creating an inclusive classroom.

THE FIVE BASIC INCLUSION DOS

1 POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Possess and communicate a positive attitude that each student can and will attain ongoing achievements within inclusive environments.

2 EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

Investigate and implement evidence-based practices and progress monitoring with ongoing knowledge of each student.

3 SPECIALLY DESIGNED INSTRUCTION

Honour the specially designed instruction that is outlined in learners' individualised education programs (IEP) to ensure that students with disabilities have access to the curriculum, based on their present levels of academic and functional performance.

4 COLLABORATIVE PRACTICES

Value collaborative practices that promote shared responsibilities of general education (GE) and special education (SE) teachers, instructional assistants, related staff, students and their families.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORTS

Set up administrative supports that clearly advocate for, communicate and provide the physical and emotional inclusion resources and models.

INCLUSION PIE

Apple, lemon meringue, and steak and kidney are different kinds of pies made up of diverse ingredients. This inclusion pie is no exception. Together, these five slices make up accepting and supportive inclusive environments. Although each part of the inclusion pie is individually coloured, the slices are interdependent.

