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Inclusion Barriers

(& Tips on Solving Them!)

Barrier #1

Inclusion

myths

and

misinformation

Try this...



Connect parents and staff with inclusion-related workshops, support groups, and reliable information on sites like The Arc and NICHCY.

Barrier #2

Belief that

inclusion

only benefits

some children

Try this...



- ➔ Use your newsletter to highlight inclusion benefits and facts
- ➔ Post reader-friendly research summaries on your program's website
- ➔ Develop a Q&A handout for parents & staff

Barrier #3

Parent

hesitation

and

resistance

Try this...



- ➔ Develop inclusion resource library with books, videos, etc.
- ➔ Organize parent information nights
- ➔ Consider an "inclusion observation series" that lets parents watch inclusion in practice
- ➔ Invite a panel of families to speak about inclusion and answer questions
- ➔ Have staff share inclusion success stories with parents

Barrier #4

Low

expectations

for kids

with disabilities

Try this...



Show staff how to use a resource like **Building Blocks for Teaching Preschoolers with Special Needs** to collect information about a child, embed interventions into classroom activities, and monitor progress. They'll be able to see just how much kids with disabilities learn and grow over the course of the year.

Barrier #5

Lack

of

time

Try this...



- ➔ Begin planning for inclusion well in advance of the school year, so teachers feel ready on Day 1
- ➔ Pair novice teachers with experienced ones so they can solve problems as a team
- ➔ Build in weekly planning times for teaching teams during the school year
- ➔ Hold monthly brainstorming lunches

Barrier #6

Lack of

training

and/or

resources

Try this...



- ➔ Hire an inclusion coach to discover support needs and provide mentoring and professional development.
- ➔ Reach out to a program already implementing inclusion under the guidance of a licensed early childhood special educator. Ask if the educator could provide supervision at your site.
- ➔ If distance and funding are issues, consider video coaching strategies and online training modules.

Adapted from **First Steps to Preschool Inclusion** by Sarika Gupta, Ph.D., with William Henninger, Ph.D., and Megan Vinh, Ph.D.

