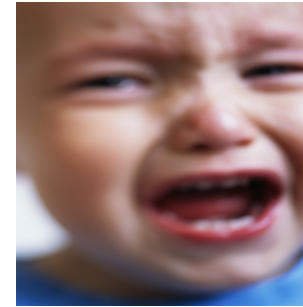


Inclusion Initiatives Newfoundland Labrador





Definitions



★ **Inclusion** - the act of including; belonging.
(NLACL T-shirt)

“Programs that encourage and appropriately support the enrollment of children with special needs, regardless of level or type of disability or disorder.”

(A Matter of Urgency, Hope Irwin, Lero and Brophy)

NOTE: All children should be able to attend the same child care programs they could attend if they did not have special needs.



Six Principles of Inclusion

Dr. Sharon Hope Irwin, Senior Researcher for Specialink.
(see Specialink at <http://www.specialinkcanada.org>)

- **Zero reject**
- **Naturally occurring proportions**
- **Same range of options**
- **Parent participation**
- **Advocacy**
- **Full participation**



What if...???

- ★ If a child with one or more “different abilities” showed up on your doorstep, what would prevent you from taking

the heart step



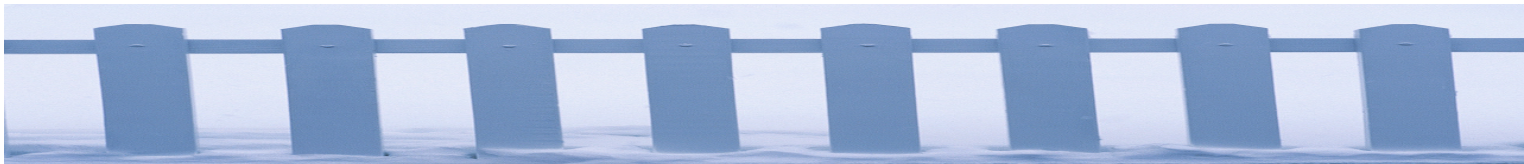
(from The Mainstream is the Right Stream Video, Specialink, 1990)



What's Stopping You????

Barriers to inclusion include:

- Staffing resources
- Time for child-specific programming
- Accessibility
- Lack of adequate equipment/materials
- Staff insecurity about their ability to address needs



What's Stopping You?? (continued)

Barriers to inclusion also include:

- Would take time away from other children
- Lack of training
- Don't know who to ask for support
- Unsupportive administration or board
- No knowledge of therapeutic interventions or ISSP process
- No history of attendance
- No policy in place





What Would Help???

Someone to talk to...



information and/
or education....



an extra pair of hands...



or additional
play materials
and equipment?

Current Provincial Inclusion Initiatives



- **Regional services** are available to support centres/homes in their role of providing care and education to young children. For children with special needs, these supports include primarily the role of the regional Inclusion Consultant. To provide an integrated approach to Child Care Services, Inclusion Consultants work closely with the other members of the Child Care Services team and RHA staff, especially Child Care Services Consultants.



- **Training in Inclusion and Diverse Needs** - A significant requirement for inclusive child care is appropriately trained staff/providers. Specific training on understanding diverse needs and challenging behaviours, implementing inclusive practices, interacting with parents of children with special needs, and working with professionals involved with the child/ren are all important to the maintenance of inclusive child care.



- **Grants to Support Inclusion of Children with Special Needs** - Child care services may require additional supports, including grants to support inclusive child care. These supports take a variety of forms, including inclusion equipment grants and additional supports for staffing.

Grants to Support Inclusion of Children with Special Needs



- ★ ***Inclusion Equipment Grants*** - designed to assist with the cost of purchasing equipment or supplies to support inclusive child care;
- ★ ***Replacement Staffing for Attendance at ISSP Meetings*** - provision of substitutes for individual program planning, consultation with referring professionals, or attendance at ISSP meetings;
- ★ ***Funded Space(s)*** - funding one or more spaces to reduce group size in a homeroom/family child care home;
- ★ ***Ratio Enhancement*** - provision of additional qualified personnel to increase the number of staff in a homeroom or the number of providers in a family child care home; and
- ★ ***Child-specific Support*** - provision of an additional person to support the personal care or attendant needs of a specific child.



Eligible for ISSP...



- ★ Children at risk include those who have an identified congenital or acquired handicap or health challenge; infants and preschool children in families with interaction and/or social problems; children at risk of developmental delay in the adaptive, social, motor, cognitive or language areas; and/or circumstances which indicate that one or more ... risk factors are present ...



When will a child need an ISSP?

- An ISSP can be developed for any child (birth - age 21) as soon as he/she requires support on an ongoing basis from one or more of the service **providers** (Departments of Health and Community Services, Education, Human Resources, Labour and Employment and Justice).





Where to From Here...???

