



## Inclusivity and Equality for People with Disabilities

### What is Disability Inclusion?

Including people with disabilities in everyday activities and encouraging them to have roles similar to their peers who do not have a disability is disability inclusion. This involves more than simply encouraging people; it requires making sure that adequate policies and practices are in effect in a community or organization.

Inclusion should lead to increased participation in socially expected life roles and activities—such as being a student, worker, friend, community member, patient, spouse, partner, or parent.

Socially expected activities may also include engaging in social activities, using public resources such as transportation and libraries, moving about within communities, receiving adequate health care, having relationships, and enjoying other day-to-day activities.

Disability inclusion means understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society, and making sure everybody has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires.

### Key Strategies for Inclusion

Be an advocate. Stay informed about federal policies, IEP (individualized education program) guidelines, and other educational rights and responsibilities. Help parents communicate effectively with school staff and local agencies.

Help students and families manage transitions: from preschool to kindergarten, from elementary school to middle school, and to high school and postsecondary opportunities.

Be informed about school criteria and resources to support successful educational progress for children with special needs.

Create partnerships with community support services and programs.

## Resources and References

<https://www.thehealthy.com/healthcare/caregiving/include-people-with-disabilities/> (great tips to keep in mind to make sure you are being inclusive)

<https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Diversity-Equity-Inclusion/supporting-multicultural-membership-growth/Children-With-Special-Needs>

<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/position-statement-education-of-students-with-disabilities>

<https://disabilityrightsflorida.org/>

<https://www.clsmf.org/service/students-rights/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-inclusion.html>

## Children's Books

I'll Walk with You Hardcover – Picture Book, March 17, 2020

by Carol Lynn Pearson (Author), Jane Sanders (Illustrator)

When Charley Met Emma (Charley and Emma Stories, 1) Hardcover – Picture Book, March 12, 2019

by Amy Webb (Author), Merrilee Liddiard (Illustrator)