



Creating an Inclusive Program Philosophy

Topics to consider when creating a program philosophy:

1. What type of program do you have or would you like to have (parent participation, play based, academic, Montessori, magnet school, charter school, general k-12 curriculum)?
2. Who are the stakeholders in the program? Students, teachers, parents, community (community center, religious organization, library, police, fire, fieldtrips), special service providers for children with disability (speech, occupational therapist, physical therapist)
3. To what extent are the stakeholders involved in the program?
 - a. Parents—Are they required to help in class, encouraged to help, discouraged from staying? Why?
 - b. Students—How do you want them to interact with each other, with teachers, and with the curriculum?
 - c. Teachers— Team teaching? Direct or indirect instruction?
 - d. Community--
 - i. Why involve them?
 - ii. How do you involve them? (fieldtrips, guests in class)
 - e. Special service providers—
 - i. Do they work only with the student with a disability or with all students?
 - ii. Is the therapy embedded in the class time or is the student pulled out for services?
4. Inclusion—
 - a. Why include students with and without special needs?
 - b. How are they going to be included? (go to inclusion models)
 - c. How will you involve special education teachers and specialized service providers (speech, occupational therapy, aide, etc.)
 - d. How will you adapt and modify the curriculum and materials to meet the individual needs of all the students?
5. Curriculum—
 - a. What is your core belief about students and how they learn?
 - b. How structured is the curriculum and why? (Direct instruction, social instruction, constructivist)
 - c. Is the curriculum play based, academic, Montessori?
 - d. Which common subjects (language, math, science, social studies, mother activities, social development) does the school include? Why?
 - e. How are you preparing students for transitions from preschool to kindergarten, kindergarten to elementary school, elementary school to middle school, etc.?
 - f. How does the program foster diversity?
6. Physical Setting--
 - a. What is unique about your location?
 - b. What is the rationale behind the set up of your classroom and playground environments? (see ECERS, ITERS, FDCRS, SACERS and DECA checklists (<http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ECERS/> , http://www.kaplanco.com/includes/content/resources/ECERSR_materials_checklist.pdf)

Write a statement combining your beliefs about the previous topics. Be sure to use person first terminology when writing the statement. (Click here for Person First statement).

How long is the statement of program philosophy? Some are a few paragraphs, others are just a sentence, but most are one or two paragraphs.



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