

Tips for Ensuring Inclusive Care

In addition to the inclusion plan, a brief introduction to your child's abilities, it is often helpful to provide other support to the program. It is also wise to ensure the program is meeting your needs.

- Be present in the beginning. If you are nervous or the child care provider has questions, offer to be present and show them how to work with your child for the first day or two.
- Be easily available by phone in case they have questions or concerns, especially when your child first begins to attend or after you stop attending with your child.
- Plan on spending a little bit of time when dropping off and picking your child up to talk with the teachers. Share information about how the morning went and ask questions about what your child did during the day.
- Be aware of special events. If there is something special, such as a fieldtrip or new activity, ask the teachers if they have any questions on how to best involve your child.
- Provide a notebook that you and the teachers can write notes in back and forth. This works well to document what is happening during your child's day and for upcoming special events. You can also use this when talking to other professionals, such as a doctor, about how things are going in your child's life. It can also work as an alternative on days you aren't able to stay and talk with the teacher.
- Trust the staff. They work with children who have a variety of abilities and needs every day. They can do this! Give them room to include your child into their classroom.
- Know that by always being present, you reduce your child's opportunities of making friends and the teacher's ability to build a healthy relationship with your child. It also takes from your time to take a break or do other things that need to be done.