

What is Inclusive Education for children with disability?

— in Plain English

Inclusive education means all children go to their local school together.

They learn and grow up together.

Children with disability and children with no disability are in the same class and they learn together.

The teachers make **adjustments** so that children with disability can do the work and join in.

Why it is important?

Children learn best when they are together and learn from one another.

Research tells us it is good for all children.

Inclusive education is a human right.

Children who go to the local school may have more choices for work or study when they grow up.

They can be friends with people at the local school.

They can go to the same school as their brother or sister.

Law and Policies

There are laws and rules about inclusive education.

They say you can choose to send your child to the local school.

The *Disability Standards for Education* is a law that says schools must support children with disability.

The Department of Education has an Inclusive Education Policy. The policy says state schools must support children with disability.

Schools must talk to families about **adjustments** that will help the child in class, in the playground, and at all school events like camps or excursions.

Who should I contact at my child's school if I have questions or concerns?

You can talk to

- the teacher
- head of special education services (HOSES) or other school leader
- guidance officer
- deputy principal or principal

Talking to the teacher is important because they see your child every day. Ask about the best way to talk to the teacher.

You can share information from a specialist or a therapist. It can help the teacher understand what your child needs.



Expanding Ideas; Creating Change



What do schools need to do?

The law says they need to **make adjustments** so your child can be part of the class and learn.

Adjustments are changes that help children with disability learn and join in. School staff need to **consult** with you and the child about adjustments.

Consult means they talk to you and ask questions. You can tell them what your child needs. You can tell them if the adjustments they use are a good match for your child. You can ask questions.

A consultation can happen over the phone, in an email or in a meeting.

You can bring someone with you to a meeting. You can ask the school to write things down for you.

You should be given information in a way that you understand and remember.

You can ask to make a decision later.

This gives you time to think and talk to people you know.

TALKING TO THE SCHOOL ABOUT YOUR CHILD

You can help teachers get to know your child so they can teach them better.

It's important for them to know:

- what your child is good at
- what your child likes
- what they don't like
- what helps them learn
- what is important to your family

You can write this down. You can give this to the school and teachers.

You can show them photos or videos of what your child is good at or what they enjoy. You can talk about what you do on weekends or after school.

You will need to get to know the people at the school. It might take time for schools and teachers to understand what's important to you.

The school may want to give your child some extra help. Your child may get help in a small group. This can be short amounts of time to work on things like reading or maths. This can happen in the classroom or another place. You can ask how this helps your child. Any extra help should not get in the way of your child being part of their class.

Someone at the school might say your child should go to a special school. You can choose to say yes or no. It is up to you.



OLIVIA

STRENGTHS

- Care and kindness for others
- Love of learning
- Reading skills
- Enjoys a laugh

I LOVE

- My parents, Yaya, Tata, Nanny and Pop and my cousins!
- Drawing, colouring-in, playing games.
- Books and reading.
- Playing in the park and kicking a ball with family and friends.
- Outings to the beach.

WHAT I'M WORKING ON

- Learning sign language to support spoken communication.
- Improving my physical strength.
- Counting skills.
- Climbing ability.

WHAT WORKS FOR ME

- Feeling valued and that I belong.
- Friendly and welcoming teaching staff and peers.
- Brief and clear instructions.
- Visual timetable of my daily activities.
- Using sign language to support communication.
- Using my interests to bring me in to learning.
- Allowing me time to answer questions/ respond.
- Providing me with choices.

What is Advocating?

Advocating is standing up for your child's rights.

You can do this yourself and you can get help with this.

You can get help if

- your child is sent home a lot
- you think the school is not making good adjustments to help your child
- you are told your child can not go to a school
- you are told they can only go for part of the day

You can call an agency to get help with **advocating** for your child.

You can call Disability Advocacy Pathways on 1800 130 582.

More information

You can get help in your language by calling 1800 512 451.

The Queensland Government has information about the Inclusive Education Policy here: <https://education.qld.gov.au/students/inclusive-education>

The Australian Government has information about the Disability Standards for Education here: www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005/information-resources-students-disability-and-their-caregivers

Where to get more help?

You can learn more about inclusive education and how to advocate for your child from the Community Resource Unit (CRU).

They have a website cru.org.au you can visit.

You can call them on 07 3844 2211 or email educationproject@cru.org.au



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