

Welcoming All: A Guide to Building Inclusive Communities

Kick off your program with these simple tips for welcoming families and children with disabilities, ensuring everyone feels comfortable and included!

1 Ask about Individual Support Needs

Before we can meaningfully support learners in our programs, we have to know about their support needs! Ask families about these needs before they begin. Include questions about communication, mobility, toileting, changing clothing (if applicable), accommodations, or eating needs so you can be fully prepared to make every participant feel included, comfortable, and like they belong.

2 Share Information

Families need details! Share important information about what to expect before the start of your program. This could include the daily schedule or a list of activities, information about the adults involved in your program, necessary materials, the plan for eating and visiting the bathroom, any other useful information.

3 Share Clear Instructions for Drop Off and Pick Up

Make sure everyone knows exactly where to go and what time to be there! Include information about parking, entrances, any necessary sign-in process, etc. Include a map to your space with specific directions.

4 Always have a Warm Welcome

Authentically and intentionally welcome every learner and family into your environment so they feel comfortable and welcome! This is especially important on the first day of your program. Warmly greeting every learner helps them feel comfortable and help them transition into your program successfully.

