



ECPC/DEC

IHE, Doctoral Student, PD, and Family Leadership Cohort

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Head Start

Delivered through 1,700 agencies in local communities, Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide services to over a million children every year, in every U.S. state and territory, in farmworker camps, and in over 155 tribal communities.

More than 80 percent of children served by Head Start programs are 3- and 4-year-olds. Infants, toddlers and pregnant women make up just under 20% of Head Start enrollment, and are served through Early Head Start programs.

Early Head Start programs are available to the family until the child turns 3 years old and is ready to transition into Head Start or another pre-K program.



Benefits of Inclusion: What Does the Research Say?

Benefits of Inclusion for Students With Disabilities

- Friendships
- Increased social initiations, relationships and networks
- Peer role models for academic, social and behavior skills
- Increased achievement of IEP goals
- Greater access to general curriculum
- Enhanced skill acquisition and generalization
- Increased inclusion in future environments
- Greater opportunities for interactions
- Higher expectations
- Increased school staff collaboration
- Increased parent participation
- Families are more integrated into community

Benefits of Inclusion for Students Without Disabilities

- Meaningful friendships
- Increased appreciation and acceptance of individual differences
- Increased understanding and acceptance of diversity
- Respect for all people
- Prepares all students for adult life in an inclusive society
- Opportunities to master activities by practicing and teaching others
- Greater academic outcomes
- All students needs are better met, greater resources for everyone



Services for Children with Disabilities or Suspected Delays

Head Start programs must ensure at least 10 percent of its total funded enrollment is filled by children eligible for services under IDEA.

All Head Start programs must ensure enrolled children with disabilities and their families receive all applicable program services delivered in the least restrictive environment and that they fully participate in all program activities.

During COVID:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/children-disabilities/coronavirus/services-children-disabilities-or-suspected-delays>



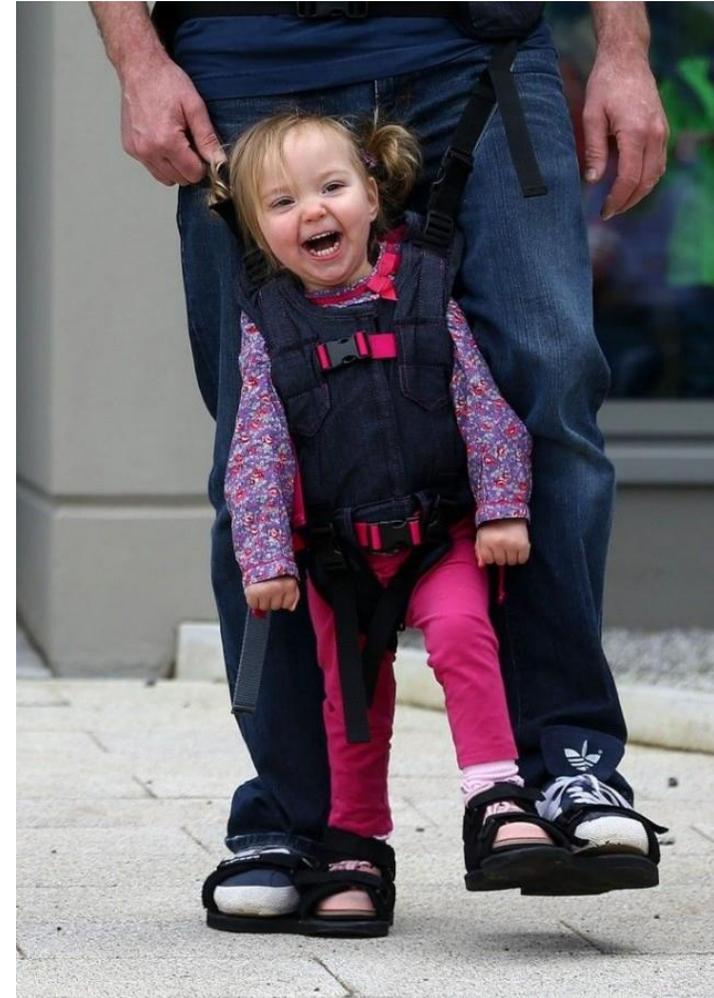
What does full inclusion looks like in Head Start?



- Teaming and Collaboration
- Partnerships
- Parent/Family Support
- Comprehensive Services
- Professional Development
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Partnerships during transitions

Elements to Achieve Inclusion

- ❑ Established partnerships/MOU with Part C and the LEA
- ❑ Communication systems within programs and partners
- ❑ Data sharing
- ❑ Training & Technical Assistance
- ❑ Shared professional development opportunities
- ❑ Network and collaboration



Additional Head Start Resources: ECLKC Website



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services



Administration for Children & Families

Contact Us

1-866-763-6481

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OFFICE OF HEAD START

Questions?



Thank You

Head Start is often called the heart of its community. Today, perhaps more than any other time in history, it is important to collaborate and help each other. Let's connect and partner to better address the needs of children with disabilities and their families.

