



Let's Talk

Inclusion and Your Child

“ Ethan has autism. He has been receiving services from therapists for a few years. I was surprised when his IEP team recommended inclusion at the last meeting. Wouldn't Ethan do better in a class with other kids like him? ”
—Naomi

What Is Inclusion?

Special education services are provided to children in different ways. Inclusion gives children a chance to play with and talk to their peers. Children with special needs are placed in the classroom with kids who don't have special needs. Children who are learning in a typical way can be good talking and listening models. They can all learn language skills together. Other children can help show your child how to make friends.

The classroom teacher, you, and your child's specialists will work together to help your child. You will be in touch with the teacher to know what's happening in the classroom.

Why Would the Team Consider Inclusion?

Sometimes the best way to help children is to work inside the classroom. Other students in the classroom are good models. They are your child's talking partners. By watching, the teacher can understand what your child needs to learn better. Giving your child a chance to talk to other kids can also help one of your child's specialists—the speech-language pathologist, or SLP.

How Can an SLP Continue to Help My Child?

Your child may have received help from an SLP for some time now. The SLP may have come to your house. Or perhaps you took your child to the SLP's office. The SLP has been a partner in your child's language development. The SLP will continue to help your child and you in different ways, such as by:

- Going into the class, helping your child or a small group during regular class activities

Fast facts

- Your child with special needs might spend time in a general classroom.
- Children can be good role models. It can help to have your child around other children who are learning to talk and listen in a typical way.
- Speech-language pathologists, or SLPs, can help.

- Bringing your child out to a quieter room to work alone or with a few other children
- Showing the teacher how to help with communication in class
- Giving you tips to work with your child at home

- How will you and his teacher work together?
- Will you help the teacher to understand the problem and how to help?
- Will my child still be with the other children most of the time?
- How will we know he is becoming a better talker?
- What can I do to help my child talk better?

What Questions Should I Ask the SLP?

If your child needs to work with an SLP, you may want to ask her:

- Where will you work with my child, in class or outside of class?

“The SLP works with Ethan in his class. Sometimes Ethan is in a small group with other students who need help. Sometimes he works alone with the SLP. The SLP also teaches me how to work with him at home. After several months, Ethan’s teacher and friends are able to understand him better. He isn’t getting angry in class, and he has fun talking to his friends.”

—Naomi

Inclusion can be a great way to help your child’s language.

To learn more about speech and language disorders or to find an SLP near you who has been certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), visit www.asha.org or call 800-638-8255 or (TTY) 301-296-5650.

My SLP’s name is

Appointment

Compliments of
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
and