

# An Essential Program Practice for **Infant and Toddler Relationship-Based Care**



## **INCLUSIVE CARE**

is the practice of actively including infants and toddlers with disabilities or delays in group care settings, with appropriate accommodation and support.

Meaningful inclusion as a member of society is every person's right from birth, as supported by federal laws including:

- Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Head Start and Child Care and Development Block Grant Acts

## **Why is Inclusive Care important?**

- An inclusive program is rewarding for all children, families, and staff
- Families benefit from high-quality early childhood programs that connect with community-based resources
- Caregivers increase their skills and knowledge of *all* children, including those with disabilities and delays

## **How do I implement in my program?**

- Actively enroll children with disabilities or delays
- Implement written guidance within your program, such as staff and family handbooks
- Ensure that all staff understand and meet the legal and ethical responsibilities of inclusive care
- Provide access to specialized supports and develop formal collaborations with community partners
- Create job descriptions that include expectations for inclusive care practices, such as forming relationships with families and working with early intervention specialists
- Attend, create, or advocate for professional development about inclusive caregiving practices
- Use an intentional review process to strengthen inclusive care

## **Positive Child Outcomes**



Support early brain development



Build problem-solving skills



Provide benefits for ALL children



Reinforce communication skills

## **Learn More!**

### **Inclusive Care**

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/infant-toddler-resource-guide/inclusive-care>

### **Source**

Lally, J. R., & Mangione, P. L. (n.d.). About the Program for Infant/TodCare. WestEd: California Department of Education. <https://www.pitc.org/about>



**CHILD CARE**

State Capacity Building Center

Infant/Toddler Specialist Network