

**Eastern Regional Inclusion Connections
September 10, 2008**

What do you hope to get out of attending these meetings?

- Information, knowledge, understanding about inclusion
- Strengthen my professional relationships, network , increase referrals of 3-5 year olds
- “my community has limited resources”, I need to know more about services, especially for three year olds, needs more resources
- wants to know more about helping exceptional children, wants to collaborate more with M@4, Early Childhood, wants to do more blending of funds (Head Start personnel)
- strategies
- wants information on best practices keeping in mind that all children and families are different and would likely require different strategies, want to know about what to do about lack of parenting skills
- kids fall through cracks sometimes, what can we do about that, need more info. on how to refer and on how to help parents more information in general related to inclusion
- better understanding of inclusion, how to share that content with others
- just here to listen and soak it in
- looking for ideas to share with child care providers, wants more collaboration
- wants more information about what is going on with programs and suggestions for how her office can be of help (C. Woodall – M@4)
- training, ideas, networking, knowledge about what works with sp needs children
- would like more information put out there about dev. screenings and well child visits, doesn't think enough focus on that
- wants more updated info about inclusion

What are the concerns about inclusion in your communities? What do parents seem to think about inclusion?

- Comment shared: Need to let families and professionals know that inclusion is NOT a program but more a way of life.
- We seem to be aspiring to quality in our early childhood programs without focusing on teacher competency – cant have quality without that
- Lack of communication
- We need to do more about educating therapists and providers about the benefits of integrated therapy

What is happening in your communities?

- People are still not receptive to caring for children with sp. needs
- Teachers and directors not always receptive to help from consultants
- Providers need training on basic practices (Annie from DCD suggested they contact licensing consultants for help)
- Not all counties have inclusion specialists, behavior spec. is not always available to work at the child specific level

- There are not enough resources and sometimes families don't know how to access the ones they do have
- There is a real need for public information
- Parent support groups and more parent to parent matching are needed

What can PFI do to help?

- Provide information on laws and resources that support inclusion
- Provide information on how to work with parents and families
- Let us know who the "referral supports" are – who is available to help and how do we contact them
- Establish a community network of people working on inclusion

What would you like us to focus on at our next meeting?

- General information about inclusion
- Integrated therapy
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What would be helpful to have on the PFI website?

- Training calendar with trainings available on inclusion- not just PFI training but any training that is being offered
- Lists of training resources that can be used
- Video clips of examples of best practice
- Question and answer board – kinda like a blog where people can post questions and others can answer
- Ask the expert question board where a question is asked and PFI answers it