

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The following agencies provide support, resources and training to parents and providers of children with special needs.

**Alta California Regional Center** (916) 978-6400  
[www.altaregional.org](http://www.altaregional.org)

Assists individuals with developmental disabilities and families make use of essential public and private services to meet their unique needs.

**Child Action, Inc.** (916) 369-0191  
[www.childaction.org](http://www.childaction.org)

Provides resources and referrals to parents seeking inclusive child care. Assists and trains child care providers in establishing inclusive care.

**SAFE: Sacramento Advocacy for Family Empowerment Program** (916) 875-4182

Staffed by families and youth to provide support, education, empowerment and advocacy to youth and families receiving children's mental health services.

**Warmline Family Resource Center** (916)922-9276  
[www.warmlinefrc.org](http://www.warmlinefrc.org)

Assists families in locating and navigating resources on advocacy, early intervention, child care, infant programs, respite, schools, support groups, and much more.

*This brochure was developed by the Inclusion Committee of the Sacramento County Local Child Care and Development Planning Council, a collaboration of agencies working to promote understanding of the unique and shared challenges parents and child care professionals face in the care of children with special needs.*

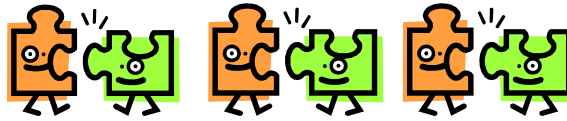
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*For more information contact:*

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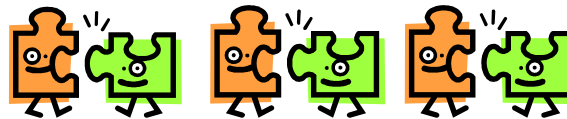
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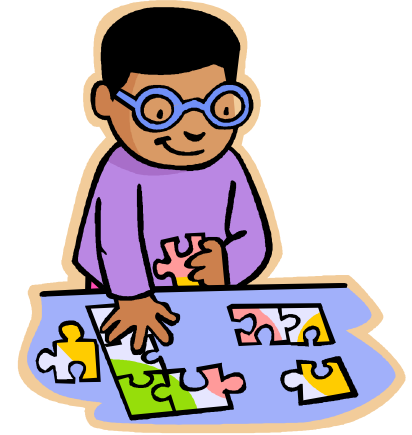
## WHAT IS INCLUSION?

- ✦ Inclusion is the full and active participation of children with disabilities or other special needs, along with typically developing children, in community activities, services and programs.
- ✦ Inclusion is a right, not a favor or a trial period.
- ✦ It gives permission for children to be themselves.
- ✦ Inclusion benefits everyone!

**By working together,  
parents and providers are  
"Piecing it All Together!"**

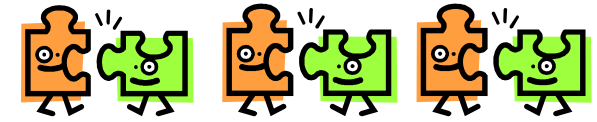
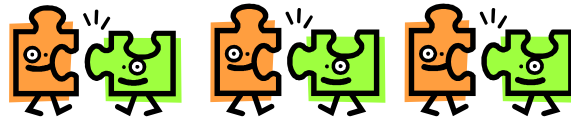
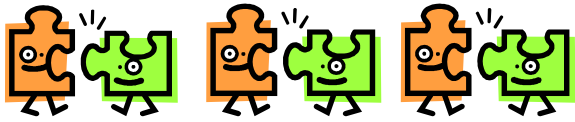


# Understanding Inclusion In Quality Child Care



"Piecing it All Together"

FOR PARENTS &  
CHILD CARE PROVIDERS OF  
CHILDREN WITH  
SPECIAL NEEDS



## “Piecing It All Together”

Every child has the right to quality child care. For parents of children with special needs finding quality child care can be especially challenging. It can be equally challenging for child care providers who are approached to care for children with special needs.

The goal is for every child to feel welcome and included in a child care program.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits childcare centers and family childcare providers from discriminating against children with disabilities.

How can parents and child care providers piece it all together? It starts with three simple steps:

1. Understanding Inclusion
2. Communicating and Working Together
3. Knowledge of Community Resources

*Inclusion is an **attitude**; a philosophy.  
Inclusion is not a “program.”*

## UNDERSTANDING INCLUSION

An inclusive child care program is dedicated to giving the best care and education possible to ALL children by making sure every child feels welcome and included.

Children with disabilities are children who have specialized health care needs, or who may benefit from special education or mental health services because they may be at risk for or are experiencing delays in one or more of the following areas:

- ◆ Cognitive Development
- ◆ Physical Development, Including Vision and Hearing
- ◆ Communication Development
- ◆ Social or Emotional Development
- ◆ Self-help/Adaptive Development

The skills required to care for children with special needs are the same skills needed to care for any child.

Including children with special needs in a child care program provides opportunities for children and adults to develop a greater understanding of everyone’s differences and unique qualities.

## COMMUNICATING & WORKING TOGETHER

In seeking child care, both parents and providers should feel comfortable asking questions and sharing information. For example:

- ☑ What type of care is the family looking for?
- ☑ How would the family describe their child’s personality and temperament?
- ☑ What skills has the child mastered?
- ☑ What does the child like to do during the day?
- ☑ Does the child have any special physical or positional needs?
- ☑ What is the child’s history regarding medication, allergies and other physical or health-related conditions?

When parents and providers partner together they create a win-win situation that emphasizes consistency of care and open communication about the child.