



All young children (Birth to 5) with and without disabilities have the right to experience settings, relationships and interactions that will support and further their development and learning.

Young children with disabilities have both the **need** and the **right** to participate in and benefit from the same experiences as their peers without disabilities **in all settings and activities within their communities**.

EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION

[USHHS & USDOE Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs 2015](#)

[NAEYC/DEC Joint Position Statement on Early Childhood Inclusion 2009](#)

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act 2004](#)

[Least Restrictive Environment](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act 1990](#)

Benefits When Young Children are Included:

COMMUNITIES

- Hold higher expectations for all children and enjoy connections to the community



FAMILIES

- Have more options for child care or early childhood education

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- Develop more friendships and are more socially competent
- Make better language and academic gains



CHILDREN WITHOUT DISABILITIES

- Appreciate diversity and show greater empathy



YOUNG CHILDREN who are included...





Virginia Cross-Sector Professional Development Team

Resources

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