

What to Say About Inclusion



Collaborative Special Education
Advocacy

Here are some common statements said at IEP meetings when the school doesn't understand the benefits of inclusion AND what you can say back.

"We want to make sure your child can be successful first."

Response: I love that we agree we want him to be successful in the general education class! Let's think of ways his teachers can be successful with him.

"It would be difficult for your child to keep up with the other students."

Response: The good news is he doesn't have to, in order to be included. There are many researched based strategies that can be used to help him learn and ways for him to show what he has learned. Special education supports and services are portable and can be brought to him in the general education classroom.

"In our building we want to make sure students have meaningful inclusion, not just to be included for inclusion sake."

Response: I certainly don't want my child to be in a general education class without the expectations that he'll be learning. If a student is just in a classroom without supports I would call that dumping not inclusion. If students are included with fidelity it will be meaningful.

"There's so much your child can learn in our special education class that will help him get ready for some inclusion."

Response: People use to think that many students with disabilities could only learn if they were in a special education classroom. Now we know that is a myth. Our child doesn't have to earn the right to be included. He can work on his IEP goals in general education environments., plus he'll be learning so much in the rich natural settings.

"Our school has a couple inclusion classes for higher functioning students."

Response: Inclusive education is not just for certain students. It is about access, participation, and outcomes for all students who are marginalized in school settings. Students that are most impacted by their disabilities deserve and need to be educated with their same-aged peers. Their peers deserve and need the opportunity to know the gifts of all students.

Would you love some more ideas about how your child can be included? Give me a call and let's talk 208.340.5874 or email me at charmaine@cspeda.com

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