



OPERATING STANDARDS

for
HIGH QUALITY
INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE



OPERATING STANDARDS

- What is inclusion
- The history of inclusionary practices in the ECE field...what have we been doing and why
- Today's parents



Poll Question #1

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- What is the biggest obstacle to a center operating an inclusive program?
 - 1. Not sure what inclusion means
 - 2. Teachers being afraid
 - 3. Staff doesn't have enough information
 - 4. The unwillingness of the Center Director



Tools from the past

- Rights and responsibilities
- The ADA
- Importance of Partnerships
- Focused on the child and the classroom



Poll Question #2

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- What does **FLK** stand for?
 - 1. Federally Legislated Kinship
 - 2. Funny Looking Kid
 - 3. Families with Legal Knowledge
 - 4. Funding for Local Keystones



Our project: The Operating Standards

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- Completed and published in 2007
 - Informed by the field
 - Essential collaborations with NAEYC, NACCCRRA, and others
 - Not the final word



What Directors Really Need

- What to do
- How to do it
- Moving towards the goal



SURVEY SAYS

- OPERATIONS
- PARENT COMMUNICATIONS
- TEACHER/THERAPIST INTEGRATION
- STAFF TRAINING and RESOURCES



Poll Question #3

- What is the accurate percentage of ECE classrooms in the United States that are inclusive
- 1. 3%
- 2. 7%
- 3. 13%
- 4. More than 20%



OPERATIONS

- How many of “*those kids*” is OK?
- Assessment & Planning, IEP’s and all!
- The challenge of ratios and group sizes; “let’s throw some money at the problem”.
- Be a resource to others



PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

- Formal, ongoing, consistent communication
- Communicate the benefits of inclusion
- Training and support for parental advocacy



TEACHER/THERAPIST INTEGRATION

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- Seriously, what does this mean?
 - Education vs. Medical model
 - Turf issues
 - What Easter Seals learned



More on integration

- Therapy in the classroom
- Planning and communication
- Education and Therapy goals, oh my!