

Sample Inclusion Policy

Policy Statement:

- ❖ ***Program Name Here*** welcomes all children and is committed to providing developmentally appropriate early learning and development experiences that support each child's full access and participation. We believe that each child is unique. Staff will work in partnership with families and other professionals involved with the child to provide the support every child needs to reach their full potential.

Procedures:

Admissions/waiting list:

- ❖ Families interested in having their child attend ***Program Name Here*** will be given an equal opportunity for admission. A waiting list may be maintained; children will be accepted from the list, based on age-specific openings.

Inclusive Environment:

- ❖ Early childhood educators at ***Program Name Here*** use developmentally appropriate practices and consider the unique needs of all children when planning. Early childhood educators will work with therapists, special educators, and other professionals to integrate individual accommodations, modifications, and strategies into classroom routines and activities. Any adaptations will be reviewed with families and other professionals supporting the child.

Confidentiality:

- ❖ Confidentiality applies to all verbal and written information about potential, enrolling, and previously registered children and their families. All staff will be briefed on the need for confidentiality and will be expected to fulfill their obligation to respect privacy protection. This excludes the responsibility held by early childhood educators as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect as outlined in Arkansas law or when the court subpoenas information. Policies on confidentiality will be reviewed with families.

Family-Centered Practices:

- ❖ ***Program Name Here*** acknowledges and respects each family's priorities for their child. Families are encouraged and supported to collaborate with staff to ensure that each child has an opportunity for optimum success. ***Program Name Here*** will communicate with each family daily and conduct regularly scheduled meetings to discuss the child's achievements and challenges.

Professional Development and Support for Staff:

- ❖ Training and support are provided to ensure that all staff are comfortable, confident, and competent to meet all children's developmental and educational needs. Staff will be knowledgeable of the inclusion policy and will attend training on effective inclusion and other disability topics when possible. The director provides additional support and resources as appropriate.

Collaboration with Other Professionals:

- ❖ Children with disabilities or other needs are supported by developmental and educational professionals such as therapists, teachers, and others. **Program Name Here** welcomes those professionals and works with them to assure the child's success. The service provider is encouraged to provide services to the child in the context of the early childhood classroom environment. The child's teacher and the service provider will work collaboratively to determine the best strategies to support the child in the group setting. **Program Name Here** supports the teacher's participation in Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.