



Children with Special Needs



Helping Hands Tip Sheet



Why enroll children with special needs in your program?

- It creates an integrated environment.
- Typically developing children and children with special needs benefit from interacting with one another
- It can provide awareness of others.

Did You Know?

Children of all abilities learn from each other.

Accommodating children with adaptive equipment can be as simple as keeping the pathways in your classroom open, and perhaps a little wider.

Having a child's therapists come to your classroom to work with an enrolled child with a special need may give you some insight into meeting the child's needs.



Something to think about: Providing age-appropriate materials and experiences in an integrated environment helps to stimulate a child's brain development which is essential in the early years.

Tips for integrating children with special needs into your facility:

- Form a partnership with the child's family.
- Communicate with the family.
- Gather information from many sources.
- Focus on the child's abilities rather than their disabilities.
- Use a developmental approach with all children.
- Structure success into your routines, the environment, and materials. What activity will the child be successful with?
- Adapt the environment and materials. Example: if a child needs help with fine motor development, create a paint brush that has a thick handle for the child to grasp.
- Integrate therapy into the classroom setting.
- Talk to the typically developing children about being helpful without hindering learning.
- Observe, observe, observe.

Communicate, Coordinate, And Integrate.

