

THE ACCESSIBLE CURRICULUM

The curriculum is a program of learning laid down by a school or other authority for an area of learning.

The view of curriculum as a continuous process of learning is preferred for inclusive classrooms.

***The curriculum is not our master.
It is our servant in education.***

**The inclusive teacher is a student oriented professional
who:**

- **Knows that the student is more important than the curriculum.**
- **Knows that differences among students are to be valued.**
- **Knows children learn better together than apart.**
- **Knows the teacher can control the curriculum to the benefit of the student.**
- **Knows the effort is worth the prize of a child's learning.**

The Accessible Curriculum

Student Centered



Student Strengths & Needs



Collaboration



Focus on Essentials



Modifications/Adaptations



Reflective Practice

THE CURRICULUM AS SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY

- **Humans are social animals (Spinoza)**
- **School is first of all about learning with and meeting others**
- **School is where all children of a community come together on a regular basis to learn and play**
- **It is the right of students, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender, to be together for their good and the good of society**
- **This right and this good is not cancelled because the child has a disability.**

VYGOTSKY & CHILDREN'S LEARNING

- **Learning is a social act**
- **Learners learn better with a guide who can show them the path**
- **The path is from the known to the unknown to the future**

THE BASICS OF VYGOTSKY

- 1. Learning is a social activity which occurs between a learner & a teacher.**
- 2. The teacher may be a professional, a parent, a peer, or any other person who knows more than the learner, and is able to communicate that knowledge.**
- 3. What is to be learned can be organized into a series of steps in keeping with the abilities of the learner.**
- 4. What is needed to facilitate learning are concrete objects and materials, language, and interacting with others.**

COOPERATION & COLLABORATION

*Well, we all need someone we can lean on,
And if you want it, you can lean on me.*

Mick Jagger/Keith Richards "Let it Bleed"

- **Traditionally, classroom teachers did it all on their own.**
- **They worked with a class group within which there was little academic or social diversity.**
- **However, inclusion says "include". Include people through your teaching.**
- **Include people in your teaching.**
- **What people?**

Parents, Resource teachers, in-class aides, volunteers, peers, administrators, and others

The Basic Principles

1. All children have a right to a place in the regular classroom.
2. All children have individual abilities & needs which should be recognized.
3. All children are learners.
4. Teachers & students are colleagues in the act of learning.

CLASSROOM CULTURE

- We need a classroom culture where all are accepted and where all can participate.
- Difference in race, ethnicity, & gender does not lessen that need.
- Neither does difference in ability.