

INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act prohibit discrimination by child care and school-age child care providers against children with special needs.

Many child care providers, school-age child care providers, and families are unaware of the provisions of these laws or how to effectively include children with special needs.

Just think...
If every child care provider in New Jersey served 1 to 2 children with disabilities, ALL of the classified infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities in New Jersey could participate.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the New Jersey Inclusive Child Care Project is to:

- Encourage and support childcare providers (family child care and center-based programs) to more effectively identify development delays and other special needs and offer inclusive child care;
- Educate parents, families, providers, and other key stakeholders of the services available for children with special needs including identification, evaluation, development of service plans, and provisions of inclusive services;
- Promote collaboration among the childcare provider, community and special needs service providers and systems to improve the delivery of services to children with special needs.

“This workshop has shown me that inclusion can be, and is, a very good thing.”

“I will use the information that I learned in the workshop not only in the classroom, but also in my daily life.”



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— NEW JERSEY — INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE — PROJECT —



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—NEW JERSEY— INCLUSIVE CHILD CARE —PROJECT—

The **New Jersey Inclusive Child Care Project** is a collaboration between SPAN (SPAN Parent Advocacy Network) and the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development.

The goals of this project are:

- To **increase the quality** of early care and education for children with special needs.
- To **increase the number** of child care providers that offer inclusive child care.
- To **increase awareness** among parents, child care providers and resource and referral agencies of the services available for children with special needs.
- To **improve the delivery** of services for children with special needs through collaboration among providers of child care services and special needs services.

“Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate in or contribute to society.”
~IDEA 2004



“This workshop gave me more self-confidence. I learned that if I believe I can make a difference, I will.”

SERVICES OFFERED



The New Jersey Inclusive Child Care Project provides:

- **Professional development** (English & Spanish) to early childhood professionals and parents on the laws that support inclusion.
- **Free trainings** on-site to child care providers via teleconferences, webinars, online as well as in person.
- **Free information about available services and resources** in New Jersey for children with special needs.
- **Free telephone technical assistance** regarding early childhood and school-age inclusion using our toll free hotline and/or your local resource referral agency.
- **Free on-site technical assistance and consultations** for a limited number of programs.

MORE AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to the training and technical assistance available through SPAN's **New Jersey Inclusive Child Care Project**, there are other resources to support the inclusion of children in special needs care.

New Jersey has **Child Care Aware of New Jersey (CCANJ)**, which functions as a central clearing house for information about child care and services available at the local level. CCANJ can be reached at <http://njaccrra.org>.

See insert for additional resources.

PROFESSIONAL & PARENT DEVELOPMENT

The **New Jersey Inclusive Child Care Project** offers a variety of workshops in English and Spanish for parents and professionals. Below is a sampling of some of our workshops.

Early Intervention and Special Education

This workshop provides tips on navigating the early intervention system, and local school district programs for children with disabilities and special needs.

Inclusion Awareness

This workshop provides the guiding principles of inclusion, information about the laws affecting it, how children are more alike than different and where to turn for assistance when necessary.



Observing and Recording Behavior

This workshop reviews typical child development milestones, observation strategies and how to share this information with parents.

Making Inclusion Happen

This workshop helps you understand how to teach to individual abilities and adapt activities to meet the needs of all children.

Screening and Talking with Families

This workshop discusses the process of screening, screening tools available for providers, and tips about what to do when a screening is positive for a developmental concern.