Inclusive Education

Resources for parents and caregivers of preschool children with disabilities

For more information contact the Road to Employment Team:

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01

A pathway for your child

Are you trying to find the best path forward for your child's education?

Historically, children with disability have been segregated from their peers in separate schools or separate classes. Sometimes this kind of schooling may seem like the only option.

Segregation can often lead to a 'polished pathway' where children in separated classrooms end up with low expectations, separated workplaces, and separated living situations.

Inclusive Education, where all students learn together, aims to disrupt that polished pathway and increase access and inclusion for all students. Access to Education is a human right.

Students living with disability in Australia are entitled to reasonable adjustments and accommodations to succeed throughout primary, secondary and post-school education under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) and Disability Standards for Education (2005).

Lea - https://youtu.be/l_QGIbwwCy4?si=cbHAVJ8Q2YyIb4DZ

Lea Goes to School

This video features a young girl starting school, and can be shared with your child.

LEA GOES TO SCHOOL | March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day | #IncludeUsFromTheStart - YouTube

02

Inclusive Education

What is Inclusive Education?

Inclusive education is when all students, regardless of ability, are placed in age-appropriate general education classes in schools in their own neighbourhood to receive high-quality instruction, interventions, and supports that enable them to be successful in the classroom.

Inclusive education means that students living with disability participate in curriculum and learning and all aspects of school life alongside their peers, and they are active, valued members of their school community.

Benefits for students with disability

Studies show there are many benefits in Inclusive Education to children with disability as well as other children in inclusive classrooms. Inclusive education can result in:

- Better academic & vocational outcomes
- Greater social interaction & more opportunities to establish and maintain friendships
- Increased independent communication and speech and language development
- A sense of belonging
- Access to a broader range of play and learning activities



03

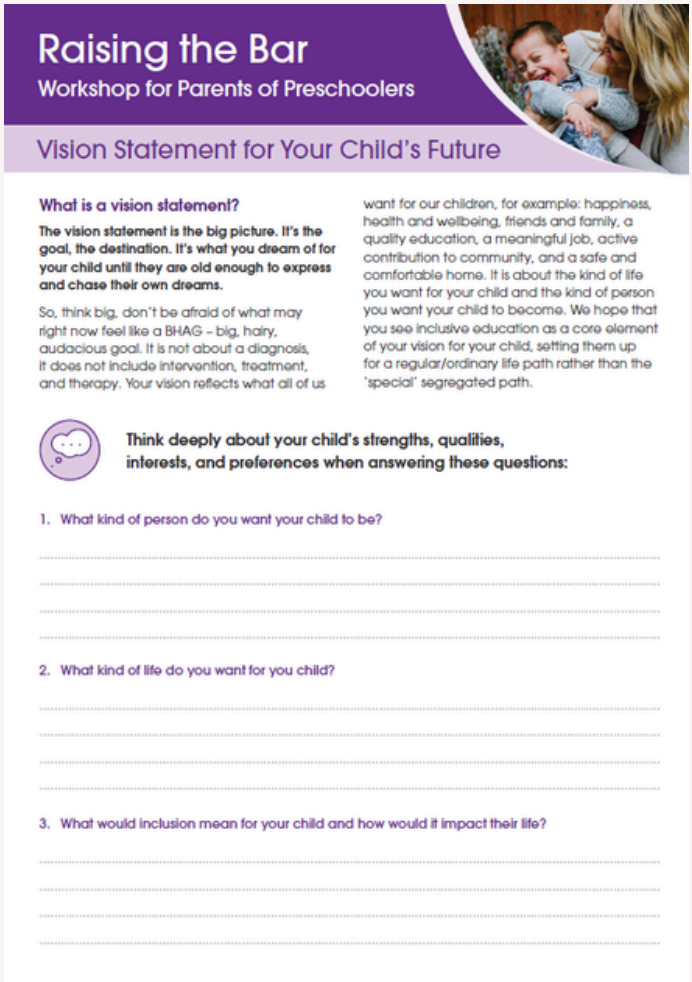
Making a plan for your child

JFA Purple Orange has a worksheet version of this plan to help you set a vision statement for your child.

The vision statement lays out your big picture educational dreams for your child.

Find the worksheet here: Preschool Vision Statement Resource

We encourage you to fill out this worksheet and have a look through the lived experience resources below.



Raising the Bar

Workshop for Parents of Preschoolers

Vision Statement for Your Child's Future

What is a vision statement?

The vision statement is the big picture. It's the goal, the destination. It's what you dream of for your child until they are old enough to express and chase their own dreams.

So, think big, don't be afraid of what may right now feel like a BHAG – big, hairy, audacious goal. It is not about a diagnosis, it does not include intervention, treatment, and therapy. Your vision reflects what all of us want for our children, for example: happiness, health and wellbeing, friends and family, a quality education, a meaningful job, active contribution to community, and a safe and comfortable home. It is about the kind of life you want for your child and the kind of person you want your child to become. We hope that you see inclusive education as a core element of your vision for your child, setting them up for a regular/ordinary life path rather than the 'special' segregated path.

Think deeply about your child's strengths, qualities, interests, and preferences when answering these questions:

1. What kind of person do you want your child to be?

2. What kind of life do you want for you child?

3. What would inclusion mean for your child and how would it impact their life?

04 Resources: Education and Parenting

Have you thought about a mainstream school? | The Purple Orange Podcast

"Have you thought about a mainstream school?" touches on inclusive education and how it benefits both people with disability and the schooling community as a whole. Join Michaela as she talks about their family's journey to finding an inclusive mainstream school for her child, Harry.

Young People Tell Us About Inclusive Education - YouTube

We spoke with young adults about what inclusive education means to them and why it is important. This video was produced by JFA Purple Orange for the Inclusive School Communities project. It was a two-year project aimed at helping schools become more inclusive for all students, including those with disability.

Rethinking the ideal parent | The Purple Orange Podcast

Join Mike and Lucilla, and Mikaila and Ivy as they talk about parenting with a disability, the challenges and solutions they overcame as a family, and how it's changed their lives for the better.

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05 Resources: Lived Experience

Maybe I'll just miss out: Changing the world by changing your mind | The Purple Orange Podcast

Join Lily as she talks about internalised ableism, how it's affected her throughout different stages of her life, and the challenge of forever trying to shape society to fit you, when it isn't designed for you. Find out more about Lily's journey through school and motherhood and the constant, everyday battle against her own internal thoughts.

Claiming your right to risk [rerun] | The Purple Orange Podcast

Hear from Dr Ellen Fraser-Barbour- a proud Deafblind woman and a policy and research leader. Ellen shares her story about claiming your right to risk as a disabled person. It's definitely worth a listen.

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06 Resources

The Growing Space: Education and Schooling
https://www.thegrowingspace.com.au/category/disability/education-and-schooling/

The Growing Space offers hundreds of resources on education, including advice on what to say at school meetings, reasonable adjustments, and going back to school after the holidays.

More practical tips on what to do next, how to advocate for your child. If they're in mainstream school, you will need to advocate for them and teach them how to advocate for themselves.

MyTime
https://www.mytime.net.au/

MyTime organises groups around Australia where parents and caregivers of children with disability can meet and share experiences and resources.

Community Resource Unit, Inc.
https://cru.org.au/our-work/inclusive-education/resources-fie/fact-sheets/

CRU has created fact sheets on early years education, getting ready for school, transitions, advocacy, and myths and barriers about inclusive education.

JFA Purple Orange: Inclusive Education
Videos: Inclusive Education - JFA Purple Orange
We offers training and resources for parents, caregivers, teachers and students about inclusive education.

Inclusive School Communities: Models of Disability in Education
https://projects.purpleorange.org.au/inclusiveschoolcommunities/resources/toolkit/exploring-disability-and-inclusion-tool-2-models-disability

Our Inclusive School Communities project focuses on resources for schools to facilitate improved access and inclusion.

Harry - A Year 3 Student in an Inclusive Classroom
https://vimeo.com/492343061

This video shows Harry, a student who uses AAC to communicate, and his experiences engaging in classroom activities and socialising with the other students.

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JFA Purple Orange
Road to Employment: Education

We host free online workshops on Inclusive Education and Post-School Transitions.

Want to register for a workshop?

Contact Meg
email: raisingthebar@purpleorange.org.au
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Follow us on social media to keep up with future events and news

www.facebook.com/JFAPurpleOrange/
https://www.instagram.com/jfa_purple_orange/
www.linkedin.com/company/jfapurpleorange

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