

Membership

Key Points: Membership

- Children assume equal roles and responsibilities in the classroom
- Adult actions and interactions prevent bullying and teasing among peers
- Adults use positive and inclusive strategies for responding to children's individual differences
- Adults use resources for promoting acceptance and understanding of individual differences

Best Practices

All adults in the classroom have worked together to create a classroom community in which all children feel they belong in the group, regardless of their individual differences. Adults create a sense of belonging by planning activities and creating social opportunities for children to interact with each other as a way of understanding and accepting individual differences. Adults greet all children and their families with genuine joy and respect. **Children of all abilities are represented throughout the classroom in books, puppets, materials, posters and toys.** Children's strengths are highlighted and built upon.

Looking For...

- Adults who are highly responsive to children's interests, emotional needs and concerns
- Adults who create equal opportunities for children to assume social roles and responsibilities (e.g., all children assume job roles)
- Adults who encourage and facilitate positive, reciprocal, and sustained social interactions
- Adults who use visual supports, books and other resources to support children's emotional development
- Adults who provide and use materials (e.g., books, visuals, and materials) that reflect individual differences in positive ways
- Adults who respond to children's comment/questions about individual differences in supportive ways
- Adults that promote a sense of belonging and connection by modeling for all children positive responses and inclusive behaviors towards individual differences
- Discussions are present that allow for individual differences

Guiding Questions for Coaching

- In what ways do you select materials that positively promote individual differences?
- How do you promote a sense of wellbeing and community in your classrooms?
- How do you prevent vulnerable students from being bullied and/or teased due to their differences?
- How do you consistently embed and reinforce emotional literacy in your program?
- How do you facilitate discussions about individual differences?

Self-Check for Teachers

- ✓ Do I have a variety of materials throughout my classroom or program that represent individual differences?
- ✓ Do I have specific materials that reflect my current students as well as others?
- ✓ Do I display the artwork of every student in your program/class?
- ✓ Are there opportunities for every student in my program/class to take on a leadership role? If not, what changes can you make to allow for these opportunities to occur?
- ✓ Do I respect and embrace the individual differences of all the children in my program/class?
- ✓ Do I feel comfortable having discussions about individual differences?

Also check out the *Checklist of Effective Social-Emotional Teaching Practices* from *Unpacking the Pyramid Model* book (pg. 99) and *Checklist for Effective Friendship Practices* (pg. 118)

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ICP content reference:

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