

# Inclusive Education Month Resource Guide

Inclusive Education Month celebrates the commitment and efforts of teachers, administrators, students and families to include students with disabilities in all aspects of their school community.

Inclusive education is the creation of learning environments that maximize the potential for every young person in our diverse societies to receive a high quality education alongside their peers in local schools that serve the whole community.

Schools and daycares are critically important centres of learning as well as a reflection of our communities. Children are not only taught to read and write but also learn how to interact with and work alongside their peers.

Research shows that all students learn better in inclusive classrooms. An inclusive school showcases the talents, strengths and capabilities of students, preparing them for a future in which individuals of all abilities live and work together.

Increasingly, inclusive policies and practices are welcoming students of all abilities into age appropriate, mainstream classrooms. In Ontario, Regulation 181/98 lays the foundation for inclusive education, stating that regular classrooms should be the first option for all learners. However, as many as 67% of Ontario students with developmental disabilities remain in segregated classrooms

## About this Resource Guide

This guide has a wide selection of multi-media resources for students, teachers and school administrators. Classroom resources are intended to help students begin to think about disabilities differently and gain a better understanding of how to interact with, include and learn alongside their peers. There are also several pages of resources for educators, including podcasts, TED talks, self-assessment tools and articles filled with practical tips and approaches to inclusive education.

Throughout the guide, links have been included next to resources that can be accessed online or downloaded to your computer.

# Classroom Resources

## Movies and Videos

### Finding Nemo / Finding Dory

ages 4+

These animated classics feature characters with a range of abilities and challenges. The films can help children think about difference and disability through positive portrayals and humour.

### Amazing Things Happen

<http://amazingthingshappen.tv/>

ages 6+

Alex Amelines created this award winning animated short film (5 mins) that introduces Autism Spectrum Disorder to children.

### Including Samuel \*\*

<https://vimeo.com/61016442>

ages 7+

In this 58-minute documentary, a father explores what inclusion looks like for individuals with disabilities - including his son, Samuel. The film honestly portrays the family's efforts to include Samuel in every aspect of their lives - at school and at home.

### Life, Animated \*\*

<http://www.lifeanimateddoc.com/>

ages 9+

The Oscar-nominated 'Life, Animated' documentary tells the remarkable story of Owen Suskind, a young man with autism. For years, Owen struggled to connect with other people. Over time, after repeated viewings of classic Disney animated movies, Owen found tools to help him understand social cues and reconnect with his family. 'Life, Animated' beautifully weaves together Disney animation with scenes from Owen's everyday life to explore how he has learned to understand his feelings and the world around him.

### Temple Grandin

ages 12+

This biopic follows an extraordinarily brilliant woman through her teens to early adulthood as she struggles with her own challenges and the limitations others place on her. Temple tackles misconceptions about autism while using her knowledge and passion to improve the cattle industry.

\*\* Copies of these films, as well as Education Guides, are available to borrow from CLKD. Please call 519-396-9434 or email [bfrench@clkd.ca](mailto:bfrench@clkd.ca) for more details.

# Books

## We're Amazing, 1,2,3

[autism.sesamestreet.org/storybook-we-are-amazing/](http://autism.sesamestreet.org/storybook-we-are-amazing/)

ages 3+

Sesame Street's online storybook introduces Elmo's friend Julia, who has autism. Elmo, Abby and Julia have a delightful play date.

## The Sneetches and Other Stories by Dr. Seuss

ages 4+

This book focuses on the importance of inclusion by looking at the 'us vs them' mentality of the Star-Belly Sneetches and the Plain-Belly Sneetches. It's a great book to discuss excluding others and to teach empathy.

## The Real Boy by Anne Ursu

ages 9+

This fun fantasy book centres on Oscar, the magician's apprentice. He has never felt like he belongs in the world of people and feels much more comfortable spending time with his cats and occasionally walking to the forest to collect plants. After the magician disappears, Oscar must befriend Callie to answer questions and uncover secrets about their world's magical history.

# Music

## Renegades by X Ambassadors

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u-niluB8HI>

This video profiles several individuals with physical disabilities, including the band's keyboard player, Casey Harris, who is blind.

## True Colours by MattyBRaps

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=132&v=dXmaE0041Y0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=132&v=dXmaE0041Y0)

This Cyndi Lauper cover features MattyB's younger sister who has Down Syndrome. The rap lyrics and video highlight the pain of bullying and the power of friendship.

# Classroom Visits

Many individuals supported by CLKD love to visit with students of all ages! Presenters can help students to think differently about those with disabilities by encouraging them to ask questions and get to know members of their community who have different abilities. Activities can include games, crafts, book readings and interactive discussions focused on inclusion, kindness, diversity and helping everyone to feel welcome.

To request a visit to your classroom, contact Beth French, CLKD Community Engagement Coordinator at 519-396-9434 ex 234 or [bfrench@clkd.ca](mailto:bfrench@clkd.ca).

# Enter the 'Together We're Better' Contest

<https://communitylivingontario.ca/en/together-were-better-contest/>

Each year, Community Living Ontario hosts a contest for students between the ages of 4 and 14. To enter, classes can film a video (5 mins or less) or students can write a short story (250 words or less) to show why school is better when everyone is learning together.

Prizes include interactive whiteboards for your classroom, a Samsung tablet and more! The deadline to enter is January 24th, 2018.

Submissions can be sent to: [togetherwearebetter@communitylivingontario.ca](mailto:togetherwearebetter@communitylivingontario.ca)  
Send a copy to Beth at [bfrench@clkd.ca](mailto:bfrench@clkd.ca) to be featured in the CLKD newsletter!

# Resources For Educators

## Videos and Youtube Clips

### 'Don't Limit Me'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOWDfnoek6E>

Megan Bomgaars' heartfelt and passionate message - 'Don't limit me' - is important for all teachers and educators to hear. Let's raise expectations and believe that everyone has the capacity to learn within inclusive schools.

## 'Teach Us Too'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKImLzqe6mQ>

This short film, created by Jonathan Bryan, is primarily intended for professionals working with children with significant disabilities. Jonathan has spearheaded a campaign to promote literacy and learning for children of all abilities.

## We are all different - and that's AWESOME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQuM5e0QGLg>

Ten year old Cole Blakeway delivered a speech at TEDx in West Vancouver. He focuses on what makes us different and interesting - what is it that makes us want to jump out of bed? Cole talks about celebrating differences as he describes his friendship with Steven, a 44 year old man with Autism.

## 'The world needs all kinds of minds'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fn\\_9f5x0f1Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fn_9f5x0f1Q)

Professor Temple Grandin is a tireless advocate for those who think differently. In this TED talk, she shares her ability to 'think in pictures' which helps her to solve problems that neurotypical brains might miss. She argues that we need to nurture all types of thinkers - pattern thinkers, verbal thinkers, visual thinkers - in order to solve problems, prevent disasters and accomplish objectives.

## Isn't it a pity? The real problem with special needs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ7QaCFbizo>

Torrie Dunlap, inclusion expert and CEO of Kids Included Together, believes that we need to change our thinking when it come to children with disabilities. Children with disabilities are marginalized in our schools and communities with the best intentions but in the end, it harms rather than helps. What we really need to do, she suggests, is question why our "regular" activities aren't designed to accommodate kids of all abilities.

# Podcasts

## Meeting Each Student's Special Needs

<http://www.wholechildeducation.org/podcast/inclusive-learning-meeting-each-students-special-needs>

This episode of the Whole Child Podcast focuses on creating inclusive learning environments for students at all levels.

## Inclusion is More than a Program

<https://player.fm/series/the-inclusive-class-podcast/inclusion-is-more-than-a-program>

This episode of the Inclusive Class Podcast discusses how schools can foster inclusive attitudes and beliefs through emotional and relational development in students.

# Social Inclusion

## Inclusion on the Playground

<https://inclusiveschools.org/inclusion-on-the-playground/>

Inclusive schools should be places where children learn but also play. Playgrounds and unstructured play time are often the centre of a child's social world. Get ideas on how to help facilitate social interaction and acceptance on the playground.

## Helping Socially Isolated Students Make Friends

[http://www.idonline.org/lavoie/Helping\\_the\\_Socially\\_Isolated\\_Child\\_Make\\_Friends](http://www.idonline.org/lavoie/Helping_the_Socially_Isolated_Child_Make_Friends)

Students with disabilities are often socially isolated at school. Rick Lavoie shows how classroom teachers can play an important role in the child's development of social competence and friendship skills.

## Social Inclusion Framework

<http://www.socialinclusion.org/framework>

Created by the Special Olympics Project UNIFY, this resource document provides guidance for promoting successful, socially inclusive practices in schools and communities.

## Inclusive Education – the Foundation for Friendship

<http://www.inclusionbc.org/parent-s-handbook-inclusive-education/inclusive-education-foundation-friendship>

Inclusion alone doesn't guarantee friends, but it can provide a foundation for accepting differences and fostering positive relationships. Read about a variety of ways that educators can support the possibility of friendship between students.

# Assessment Tools

## Quality Standards for Inclusive Schools Survey

<https://inclusiveschools.org/inclusion-resources/self-assessment/>

This comprehensive online instrument, developed by Stetson and Associates, can help schools review current practices, policies and knowledge relating to inclusive education.

## The Inclusive Education Checklist: A Self-Assessment of Best Practice

This practical 2016 book, written by Richard A. Villa and Jacqueline Thousand, is designed to assist school boards and educators as well as parents and youth to assess, develop and implement inclusive practices. It identifies 15 key evidence-based practices and presents a checklist of 8 to 32 indicators for each. Using the self-assessment tools, readers can plan for both large and small scale improvements to promote quality education for students of all abilities.

## KIT's Inclusion Checklist

<http://elearning.kit.org/oltpublish/site/document.do?dispatch=show&id=88a2e8cb-f19e-11e7-a6ac-0cc47a352510&entityType=GROUP&entityId=cc65edfc-b8a5-11e3-bc5a-00163e0054ca&inner=false>

Creating and maintaining fully inclusive programming requires work and planning. Kids Included Together ([www.kit.org](http://www.kit.org)) developed this self-assessment checklist to help organization see how they are doing.

## Presentations

### What are the Benefits of Inclusion?

[yourschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Bennett-SEAC-Presentation-Feb-1.pdf](http://yourschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Bennett-SEAC-Presentation-Feb-1.pdf)

Dr. Shelia Bennett and Dr. Tiffany Gallagher delivered this presentation to the Avon Maintland District School Board in February 2017. They look at benefits and outcomes for students, peers, educators and school leadership.

### Inclusion from the Heart

[ie.cacl.flywheelsites.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/07/speech-at-inclusion-event.pdf](http://ie.cacl.flywheelsites.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/07/speech-at-inclusion-event.pdf)

A transcript of a bilingual (English and French) speech delivered by Alice Bender, an educator from Montreal, that shares her own journey towards inclusive schooling.

## Articles and Documents

### Including Students with Exceptionalities

[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/Bennett.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/Bennett.pdf)

Dr. Shelia Bennett discusses the role of the school in promoting acceptance of students with exceptionalities. She recommends approaches that promote successful inclusion within educational settings - not just in classrooms but in hallways and staff rooms.

### Advancing Inclusive Education: Keys to Transformational Change in Public Education Systems

<http://inclusiveeducation.ca/2017/04/21/advancing-inclusive-education/>

Released by Inclusive Education Canada, this document includes ten keys to school transformation, successful case studies and calls to action for students, parents, teachers, school principals and the community.

## The Delivery of Education Services Report

[ie.cacl.flywheelsites.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/07/clo-delivery-of-education-services-1.pdf](http://ie.cacl.flywheelsites.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/07/clo-delivery-of-education-services-1.pdf)

This report is a snapshot of special education service delivery for students who have an intellectual disability in Ontario. Its aim is to provide an overview of inclusionary practices, present facts and highlight various perspectives. The recommendations in the report support ongoing efforts to fully include students who have an intellectual disability.

## School Principals – Leading the Way to Inclusive Schools: Implementation Steps for Moving Forward

[inclusiveeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/07/School-Principals-Leading-the-Way-to-Inclusive-Education.pdf](http://inclusiveeducation.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/07/School-Principals-Leading-the-Way-to-Inclusive-Education.pdf)

School Principals play a critical role in setting the priorities for learning in the school. Effective leadership is necessary for schools to become truly inclusive and meet the educational needs of an increasingly diverse student population.

## Community Living Kincardine & District

CLKD provides person-centred services to individuals with developmental disabilities, supporting them to explore and achieve their personal goals, dreams and ambitions. Founded in 1963, CLKD has a rich history of advocacy, outreach and community-based supports. In partnership with families and the community, CLKD promotes and facilitates the full participation and inclusion of people who have a developmental disabilities. Did you know? CLKD supports more than 150 individuals, including infants, children, adults and families in our community.

Together, we can create an inclusive, caring community where all people belong and have equal opportunity to participate.

To find out more information or schedule a classroom visit, please contact:

### **Beth French**

Community Engagement Coordinator  
519-396-9434 ex 234  
bfrench@clkd.ca

This guide was created with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation