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Benefits & Drawbacks of Early Childhood Inclusion

(adapted from Bailey and Winton, 1987)

Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Early childhood inclusion refers to the practice of serving young children with special needs and typically developing children in the same child care or preschool classroom. Listed inside are some of the benefits and drawbacks of early childhood inclusion reported by parents of preschoolers with and without special needs. Circle the number that indicates the degree to which YOU feel each item represents a benefit or drawback of early childhood inclusion BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND/OR BELIEFS. Please use the space provided on the back cover to describe additional benefits or drawbacks of early childhood inclusion.

Please enter the last four digits of your Social Security number here: I.D# ____/____/____/____

Circle the number that indicates the degree to which YOU feel each item represents a benefit of early childhood inclusion
 BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND/OR BELIEFS

Benefits of Early Childhood Inclusion

Definitely Not a Benefit	Probably Not a Benefit	Not Sure	Probably a Benefit	Definitely a Benefit
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FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1. Are better prepared for the real world	1	2	3	4	5
2. Develop more independence in self-help skills	1	2	3	4	5
3. Learn more from typically developing children	1	2	3	4	5
4. Are more likely to try harder	1	2	3	4	5
5. Are more likely to feel better about themselves	1	2	3	4	5
6. Have more opportunities to participate in a variety of activities	1	2	3	4	5
7. Are more likely to be accepted by the community	1	2	3	4	5

FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

8. Learn more about typical child development	1	2	3	4	5
9. Have more opportunities to meet and talk with families of typically developing children	1	2	3	4	5

FOR TYPICALLY DEVELOPING CHILDREN

10. Are better prepared for the real world	1	2	3	4	5
11. Learn more about differences in the way people grow and develop	1	2	3	4	5
12. Are more aware and accepting of their own strengths and weaknesses.	1	2	3	4	5

FOR FAMILIES OF TYPICALLY DEVELOPING CHILDREN

13. Are more understanding of families who have a child with special needs	1	2	3	4	5
14. Are more understanding of children with special needs.	1	2	3	4	5

Of the benefits listed above, which one is likely to be the greatest benefit of early childhood inclusion? Write the item number.

Circle the number that indicates the degree to which YOU feel each item represents a drawback of early childhood inclusion
 BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND/OR BELIEFS

Drawbacks of Early Childhood Inclusion

Definitely Not a Drawback	Probably Not a Drawback	Not Sure	Probably a Drawback	Definitely a Drawback
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FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1. Are less likely to receive special help and individualized instruction	1	2	3	4	5
2. Are less likely to receive special services, such as physical or speech therapy	1	2	3	4	5
3. Are more likely to be rejected or left out by teachers	1	2	3	4	5
4. Are more likely to be rejected or left out by other children	1	2	3	4	5
5. Are more likely to have teachers with little or no specialized training	1	2	3	4	5

FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

6. May feel left out or ignored by families of typically developing children	1	2	3	4	5
7. May feel that most of the other families do not share or understand their concerns	1	2	3	4	5
8. Are more likely to notice and feel upset by differences between typically developing children and the child with special needs	1	2	3	4	5
9. May observe their child being rejected or teased	1	2	3	4	5

FOR TYPICALLY DEVELOPING CHILDREN

10. May not receive enough teacher attention	1	2	3	4	5
11. May copy negative behaviors of children with special needs	1	2	3	4	5
12. Do not receive their fair share of materials and equipment	1	2	3	4	5

FOR FAMILIES OF TYPICALLY DEVELOPING CHILDREN

13. Feel uncomfortable around children with special needs	1	2	3	4	5
14. Feel uncomfortable around families of children with special needs	1	2	3	4	5

Of the drawbacks listed above, which one is likely to be the greatest drawback of early childhood inclusion? Write the item number.

■ Have you experienced or do you believe there are **benefits** of early childhood inclusion that are not listed above?
Please describe them here:

■ Have you experienced or do you believe there are **drawbacks** of early childhood inclusion that are not listed above?
Please describe them here:

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