Inclusive Education in the IEP Using Assistive Technology

Carolyn O'Hearn
Alt+Shift

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Rethink the possible. Realize potential.

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Feedback from Session 1

- Wanted more time with breakout rooms
- More questions than answers
- Focused on challenges, but not solutions

What is Inclusive Education?

The definition of inclusion states that all students:

- are presumed competent
- are welcomed as valued members of all general education classes and extra-curricular activities in their local schools
- fully participate and learn alongside their same age peers in general education instruction based on the general education curriculum, and
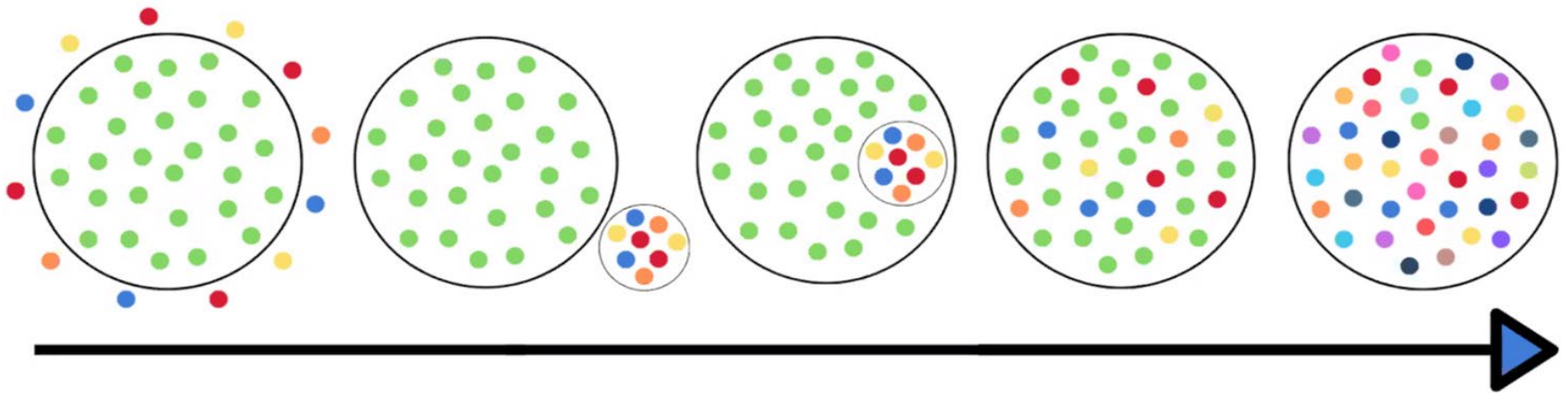- experience reciprocal social relationships.

(TASH, n.d., para.1)

IDEA

"To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, must be educated with children who are not disabled. Further, special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment may occur only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily."

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
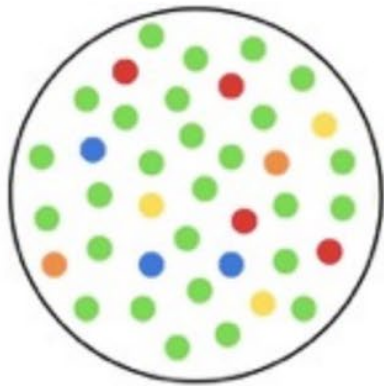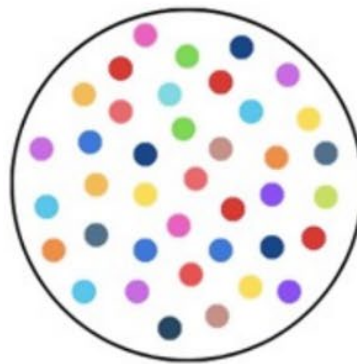
The Evolution of Inclusion

WHAT IS INCLUSION?

where are you on this continuum? what's the next step?

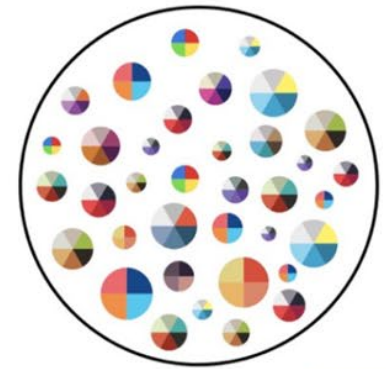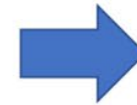Where are you or your classrooms? What's the next step?

But no one can identify as ONE color

How do we include people who are different

How do we teach to diversity?

How do we teach to identity?

"Inclusive education is more than just space or time."
Shelley Moore

AT Device

Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a person with a disability.

Examples of AT

Research Tools

Writing

Organization/ Task Management

Dictation/ Speech-to-Text/Speech Recognition

Mind Mapping/ Brainstorming

Study Skills/ Aids

Assistive Technology

Vision

Notetaking

Communication

Hearing

Time Management/ Distraction Free

Built-In Accessibility

Reading

Source:
http://www.augsburg.edu/class/groves/ assistive-technology/everyone/

Talking Book Program

techsoup.org
the place for nonprofits and libraries

AT Service

Any service that directly assists the person with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

- Evaluate/assess the student
- Acquire the device or tool
- Customize or modify
- Coordinate with other therapies or services
- Training the student and student's family
- Training other adults (employers, professionals, caregivers, etc)

More than Checking a Box

The IEP team must consider the following for the student:

❑ The communication needs of the student.

❑ The need for assistive technology devices and services for the student.

…this box doesn't provide any details!

Sections of an IEP

- Present Levels (PLAAFP)
- Transition
- Goals and Objectives
- Supplementary Aids and Services
- Testing, Transportation
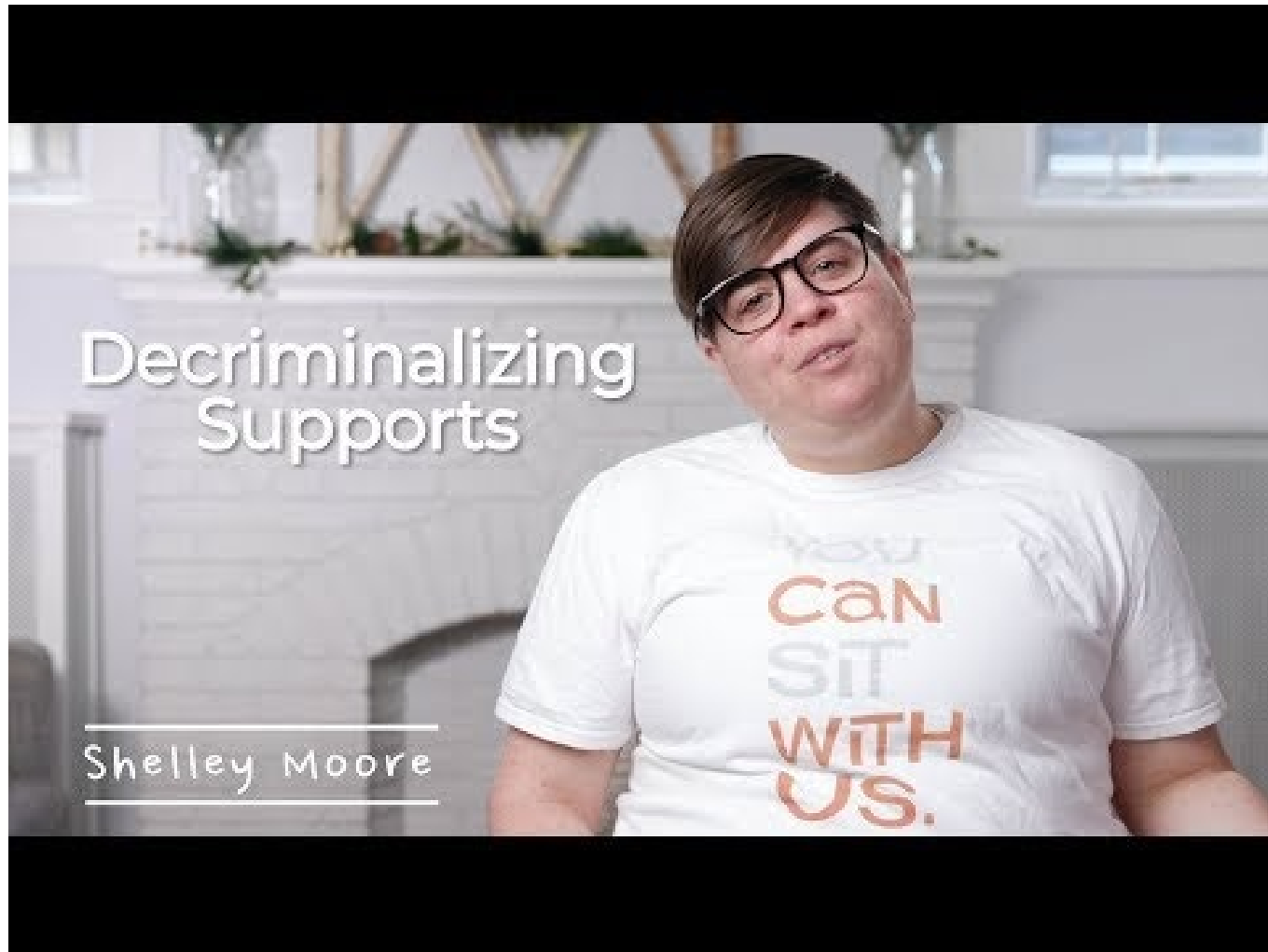- Related Services

How Does AT Fit with Inclusion?

"Technology has great potential in providing access for all learners. Through the use of a variety of assistive technologies, students with disabilities can have the ability to access the general curriculum. When assistive technology is appropriately integrated into the regular classroom, students are provided with multiple means to complete their work."

Janet Jendron
University of South Carolina Assistive Technology Project
"The Power of Assistive Technology"

Decriminalizing Supports

In Your Breakout Rooms:

- **Quickly** introduce yourselves
- Read through & discuss the guiding questions
  - Encourage equality
  - Be time conscious
  - Embrace vulnerability
- Nominate someone to share out 1-3 key points when we return as a whole group
- You will have time in your breakout rooms again

Share Out

Go Back to Breakout Rooms:

- What new ideas do you have from today's discussions?
- What is your next step when it comes to examining AT documentation:
  - For your caseload
  - (and use) for your child

Join Us for our Next Session!

- "Inclusive Society: Using AT Beyond the School Day"
  - May 11 from 7:00-8:30pm

We are here to support you!

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