



Fitting together in First Grade

Learning and
Growing in an
Inclusive
Classroom

Presented by: Gina Gendron



An abstract artwork featuring several hands in various colors (brown, green, blue, yellow) reaching out or holding each other. The background is a mix of red, orange, and green with white, swirling lines. The overall style is expressive and colorful.

Who are the teachers in Room C-6?

- Mrs. Gina Gendron
Masters Degree in Special Education
C.A.G.S in Early Childhood Education
- Mrs. Kate Hartley
Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
Masters Degree in Special Education
- Ms. Colleen Ryan
Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education



What are the different types of special education services?

- In-class support: Students receive supports while remaining in the classroom environment.
- Pull-Out services: Students receive supports outside of the general education classroom. Typically small group situations.
- Mainstreaming: Students from the learning center come into the classroom during specific times of the day.
- Inclusion: Students with and without special needs are completely active members on the same classroom.
- Intensive Learning Center: Students are in a separate setting working on their skills until they are able to be mainstreamed and/or part of an inclusion setting.



Defining Inclusion

- Within educational literature, inclusion is described in many different ways. Schwarz (2006) states,

“The strategy behind inclusion is to design supports – innovative approaches to learning, differentiated instruction, curricular adaptations – for every student in the classroom, to include the entire spectrum of learners.”

* In addition, inclusion is also a philosophy where all students are valued and supported to participate meaningfully with each other.

An abstract artwork featuring a central green rectangular area containing text. To the left of this area, there is a vertical strip showing a blue and green globe with two hands, one brown and one white, reaching towards it. The background of the entire slide is a collage of abstract shapes and colors, including red, orange, yellow, and white, with white lines resembling chalk or paint strokes.

What is *inclusive education*?

- The National Center on Educational Restructuring and Inclusion developed the following working definition of inclusive education:
- “Providing to all students, including those with significant disabilities, equitable opportunities to receive effective educational services, with the needed supplementary aids and support services, in age appropriate classrooms in their neighborhood schools, in order to prepare students for productive lives as full members of society.”

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An abstract artwork featuring a central green rectangular area containing a list of bullet points. To the left of this area is a vertical strip showing a globe with blue and green continents, surrounded by several hands in various colors (brown, green, yellow) reaching towards it. The top and bottom of the slide are decorated with horizontal bands of abstract, textured patterns in red, orange, and white. The background of the central green area is a dark, textured green.

Inclusive Schools like Bournedale...

- Provide access to knowledge, skills, and information to all students
- Differentiate the curriculum in order to meet the individual needs of all learners
- Encourage co-teaching and collaboration among general and special educators
- Collaborate with families and community members
- Maintain high expectations for all students
- Engage in continuous improvement, planning, and best practices
- Promote and support respect, diversity, and individuality
- Believe that ALL STUDENTS CAN AND WILL LEARN!!!



What does co-teaching/collaborative teaching look like?

Teachers in an inclusive setting are collaborating and co-planning daily in order to:

- * Meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all learners.
- * Support the behavioral conquests of all learners
- * Utilize a variety of co-teaching models during instructional periods. (e.g :1 teach/1 assist & parallel teaching)
- * Share resources and experiences in order to differentiate the instructional needs of all learners.
- * Create, modify, and implement best teaching practices.
- * Assure the safety and comfort of all learners.



Research Shows...

- According to the *National Study of Inclusive Education*, *students in* cooperatively taught inclusive classes were on-task more often, had more opportunities for one-on-one instruction, and were engaged in more individual work.
- The use of cooperative learning strategies results in, for students with and without disabilities, increased social skills, greater communication skills, the development of problem-solving skills, and enhanced learning.

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An abstract artwork featuring several hands in various colors (brown, green, blue, yellow) reaching towards a central globe-like shape. The background is a mix of red, orange, and green with white chalk-like lines. The text is overlaid on a dark green rectangular area.

How are we effectively meeting the needs of
all learners?

Research proves that...

- Differentiated instruction increases student engagement.
- Academic supports help each student access the full curriculum.
- Behavioral supports help maintain a positive learning environment for everyone.
- Respect for diversity creates a welcoming environment for all
- Inclusive practices make effective use of a school's resources.



<http://inclusiveschools.org/together-we-learn-better-inclusive-schools-benefit-all-children/>



Benefits of Inclusion for Students *With* Disabilities

- The creation of friendships
- Increased social initiations, relationships and networks
- Peer role models for academic, social and behavior skills
- Increased achievement of IEP goals
- Greater access to general curriculum
- Enhanced skill acquisition and generalization
- Increased inclusion in future environments
- Greater opportunities for social and academic interactions
- Higher expectations of academic, social, and emotional conquests
- Increased school staff collaboration
- Increased parent participation
- Families are more integrated into community


<http://www.kidstogether.org/inclusion/benefitsofinclusion.htm>



Benefits of Inclusion for Students *Without* Disabilities

- The creation of meaningful friendships
- Increased appreciation and acceptance of individual differences
- Increased understanding and acceptance of diversity
- Prepares all students for adult life in an inclusive society
- Provides opportunities to master activities by practicing and teaching to others
- Increased access to modifications and accommodations, which support all learners
- Increased access to a variety of best practices/strategies/techniques
- Increased access to 1:1 and small group instruction
- Increased access to differentiated learning opportunities
- Smaller class sizes

<http://www.kidstogether.org/inclusion/benefitsofinclusion.htm>





Value-added environment

- "A growing body of research indicates that typical kids in well- supported inclusive environments get a richer, more individualized and personalized education than in a single-teacher, homogeneous classroom. In addition, they learn more about metacognitive strategies (how to think about learning), and develop a greater understanding of individual differences that will prove invaluable to them whether they live in a neighborhood, work on an assembly line or become a neurosurgeon. The inclusive classroom is a "value-added" environment."

<http://www.ldonline.org/article/5901/>

An abstract artwork featuring a central green rectangular area containing text. To the left of this area, there is a vertical strip showing a blue and green globe with two hands, one brown and one white, reaching towards it. The top and bottom of the image are decorated with horizontal bands of abstract, textured patterns in red, orange, and white. The text is written in a light green, chalk-like font on a dark green background.

What type of special education services are offered to students with special needs?

- Academic supports, both in-class and out
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Speech
- Adaptive Physical Education
- Social/Emotional Therapy

An abstract artwork featuring a central green rectangular area containing text. To the left of this area is a vertical strip showing two hands, one brown and one white, reaching towards a blue and green globe. The background is composed of various colored bands and textures, including red, orange, and dark brown, with white chalk-like lines drawn across them.

In closing...

Inclusion is about a set of best practice strategies coupled with the moral view that all students bring value to the general education classroom.



Staff Resources at BES

- Mrs. Gina Gendron, Inclusion teacher
Ggendron@bourneps.org 508-743-3800 X4306
- Mrs. Kate Hartley, Intensive Learning Center , Special Education Teacher
khartley@bourneps.org 508-743-3800 X4209
- Mrs. Colleen Ryan, Intensive Learning Center , General Education Teacher
cryan@bourneps.org 508-743-3800 X4209
- Mrs. Abby Downing, Social Worker
adowning@bourneps.org 508-743-3800 X4114
- Ms. Jin Chung, School Psychologist
jchung@bourneps.org 508-743-3800 X
- Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenito, Principal
ecarpenito@bourneps..org 508-743-3800 X4003
- Mrs. Allyson Sawicki-Davis, Director of Student Services
Asawicki-davis@bourneps.org 508-743-3800 X4421

The background of the slide features a colorful abstract artwork. On the left side, there is a vertical panel showing two hands, one brown and one white, reaching towards a blue and green globe. The rest of the slide is decorated with abstract, textured brushstrokes in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green.

Online/Community Resources

- www.massfamilyties.org : Family TIES of Massachusetts provides information and referral services, emotional support, and trainings to parents of children and youth with special needs
- <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/Pages/index.aspx>: The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Development
- www.pecs.com : Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc offers a wide range of consulting services and products for educators and parents of children and adults with autism and related disabilities.
- www.difflearn.com : Different Roads to Learning is an online company that sells a variety of products for parents and teachers of children with autism and related disorders.
- www.healthychildren.org : Powered by pediatricians. Trusted by parents.



The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract artwork. It features a central blue circle, possibly representing a globe or a sun. Surrounding this are green and brown shapes that resemble landmasses or foliage. White, wavy lines are drawn across the dark background, creating a sense of movement and energy. The overall style is reminiscent of a child's drawing or a folk-art inspired piece.

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