

Inclusion Modifies Rules

How Modifying Rules Creates Opportunity:

The assembly gets students interacting and experiencing what disability feels like. A few students will be given blind folds and are shown how someone who is blind may use a beep ball to play soccer. If we modify the rules of soccer and allow beep balls on the field, how could this include more people who could play the game with us?



The students will see a video of how children in power wheelchairs play the game of POWER SOCCER. If we put ambulatory students in wheelchairs and they play against students who live daily in power wheelchairs, who would win at the game of POWER SOCCER? Changing rules can change who has the disability! Students will begin to understand how modifying rules can open doors too including students of all abilities!



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PATHWAYS

for Exceptional Children



“Include ME!” ASSEMBLIES



About Include ME!

How Include ME! Began:

The "Include ME!" Assemblies began in 2010 by students that had a passion for inclusion. Their goal was to deliver a strong and motivating message to their fellow students that would help create a sense of belonging for children of all abilities.

The Purpose of the Assembly is Three Fold:

- 1) To change the perception of disability from "can't" to what people with special needs "can do."
- 2) Increase the confidence students have when interacting with people having disabilities.
- 3) Develop a sincere empathy that promotes deeper understanding of the struggles and frustrations disability can cause.



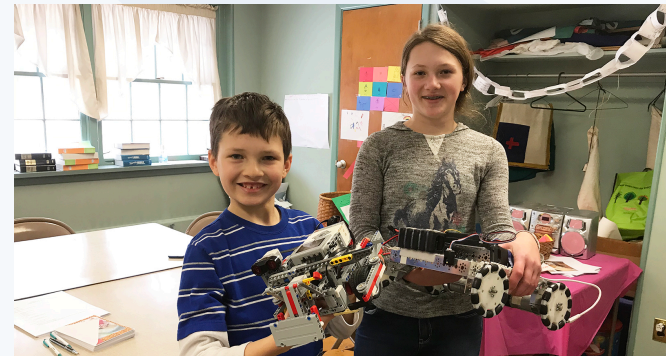
Changing the Perception of Disability:

The word disability is powerful. Those who have been labeled using this word are often seen as "less than" or not as capable. The assembly gives examples and tells stories using video and photos of children with disabilities that replace the word DISABILITY WITH ABILITY. It is in focusing on people's strengths that we often find a gold mine of opportunity and potential just waiting to be realized!

Inclusion Empowers Everyone

Inclusion Is More Than Tolerance!

For years words describing such as tolerance and acceptance have been used to describe inclusion. These words are not at all synonymous with inclusion and in fact can often do more to hurt than help. Words like tolerate and accept are often translated into; "I will put up with you because I have to." These are not words that promote a feeling that actively works to transform the hearts and belief systems of people. We all can do better than tolerate!



Inclusion Empowers Everyone!

When students get actively involved in creating an environment where inclusion flourishes everyone benefits. The assembly shares examples of students that have developed programs and shared their passions with others. These students have built Pathways rock band, computer science, robotics, art, science, and sports programs. All of these programs have been modified to meet the varying abilities of the children that register. Using this "children teaching children" model has transformed the way students think. All of the children involved have experienced the empowerment that comes from inclusion and agree that everybody wins when inclusion is made a priority!