

The Role of Families in Promoting Inclusive Education

Parents and family members have a key role in the active advocacy to ensure inclusion in education for their children with disabilities.

Family members can support inclusion at home, at school and in the community:



At home

- ✓ Parents need to recognise their child as a citizen with full rights and responsibilities - inclusion starts at home.
- ✓ Parents and family members of children with disabilities can create an inclusive space where all family members are supportive and understand the value of inclusion.
- ✓ By treating their children/family members with and without disabilities equally – like by ensuring equal rights to make choices and supporting children to participate in community activities in the same way - parents can embed a strong value of inclusion within the family. This creates the next generation of advocates within the siblings!



In the community

- ✓ Parents and family members can create a local or national community and platforms where they can support each other and exchange ideas on how to advocate for inclusion within and beyond school.
- ✓ Families can find, be part of, and strengthen support networks with family organisations that work for the rights of people with disabilities on inclusive education.
- ✓ Parents and family members can contribute to the construction of policies, laws and programmes to include the perspective of inclusion in education with their governments to make education systems inclusive and bring about long-term systemic change.
- ✓ Parents and family members can generate strategic alliances with key actors in their communities, to demand quality education for all without exception.



At school

- ✓ Parents and family members need to know that the right to education should never be taken away from their child/family member.
- ✓ Parents and family members need to know the rights and regulations that exist in their country on education and for people with disabilities in general.
- ✓ Parents and family members can create demand for inclusive, quality and equitable education.
- ✓ Parents and family members can support building trust with teachers and school officials, so that they share their expertise and influence decisions about education for their children about inclusion.



At school

- ✓ Parents and family members can support teachers to contribute to eliminating myths and prejudices about children with disabilities by explaining to them why inclusive education benefits all students.
- ✓ Parents and family members should have confidence that they are the main source of information about their children with disabilities. They are the experts in everything related to their child's strengths, abilities and support needed to achieve their ambition and they must contribute with this knowledge to the educational environment.
- ✓ Parents and family members can help teachers and school directors to identify the resources and supports needed to progress/achieve/enhance inclusion in education.

Your turn: The Role of Families in supporting Inclusion Education

What other ways do you support inclusion and inclusive education in your family member's life?



At home

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In the community

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At school

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