How to Write a Program Philosophy

INCLUSION COLLABORATIVE

Do you have a Program Philosophy?

- Yes → Program Discussion
- No → Establish Program Philosophy Team

Establish Program Philosophy Team—Identify stakeholders who are interested in establishing the program's philosophy

- Administrators (special education/general education)
- Teachers/staff (special education/general education)
- Parents of children with and without special needs
- Community stakeholders (i.e. community centers, family recourse centers, regional centers, school districts, etc.)

Program Discussion

Discuss the type of program you have or would like to have (parent participation, play based, academic, Montessori, magnet school, charter school, general curriculum)

Stakeholder Involvement

- Administrator
- Parent
- Community (fieldtrips, special guests)
- Teacher (team teaching, ancillary staff, aides, etc.)
- Other

Curriculum

- What is your core belief about children and how they learn?
- How is the curriculum structured (i.e. direct instruction, social instruction, constructivist)?
- Is the curriculum play based, academic, both?
- Which common subjects (language, math, science, social studies, motor activities, social development) does the school include?
- How are you preparing students for transition?
- How does the program foster diversity?

Inclusion

- Why include children with and without special needs?
- How are they going to be included? (go to inclusion models)
- How will you involve special education teachers and specialized service providers (speech, occupational therapy, etc.)?
  - Do they work only with a child with disability or with all children?
  - Is the therapy embedded in the class time or is the chil pulled out for services?
- How will you adapt and modify the curriculum and materia to meet the individual needs of all the students?

Physical Setting

- What is unique about your location?
- What is the rational behind the set up of your classroom and playground environments? (see ECERS, ITERS, FDCRS, SACERS and DECA checklists http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ECERS/ http://www.kaplanco.com/includes/content/resourc s/ECERSR_materials_checklist.pdf,

Write a statement about the strengths of your program and the stakeholders.

Write a statement concerning your belief about how children learn and your curriculum.

Write a statement about the inclusion model you will use and why you will use it.

Write a statement about the physical setting of your school.

Make sure your statements are in Person First Terminology.

Combine statements into a cohesive statement to form your program philosophy

1290 Ridder Park Drive • MC 227 • San Jose, CA 95131 • (408) 453-6756 • FAX: 453-6596
www.inclusioncollaborataive.org
© 2009 Santa Clara County Office of Education