



Special Services Newsletter

January 2018

Every student, every day, preparing for the future.

The mission of Derby Public Schools is to create a tomorrow that is better than today by ensuring all students continually grow and learn.



All,

Thanks for checking out our new department newsletter! For those that aren't aware, the Derby Special

Services Department oversees a number of district responsibilities including special education, 504s, McKinney-Vento (homeless), and nursing services among other areas.

We are always working to find new ways to improve our communication with the community, and this is our latest method. If I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me!

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Early Childhood Screenings

Derby Public Schools provides public notice to all patrons of the availability of special education services and related services for all students (ages 3 through 21 years of age) residing within the school district. To learn more about services for our youngest students, please click on the Project Kids logo.



Parent Learning Opportunities

We are planning a learning opportunity for all parents in the month of April. More details will be available soon. For now we'd like your feedback on topics you'd like to learn more about. [Please click here](#) to provide us with feedback. Thanks for your help!



Parent Reminder:

You are not alone...
You aren't perfect- and that's ok!
You are a superhero...
Make time to enjoy your kids!
You won't always get it right!
Being a parent is hard- being a parent of a child with extra needs is extra hard...
Don't lose yourself...
Keep your sense of humor!
Celebrate the little things!

Did You Know?

Families Together is the Kansas [Parent Training and Information \(PTI\)](#) & [Family-to-Family Health Information \(F2F\)](#) Center. This is a non-profit organization that provides support and information for families of children, from birth to age 26, with disabilities and/or special health care needs. Families Together has one main goal and that is to educate and empower families to be strong and effective advocates for their children. The staff at Families Together provide parents and youth one on one assistance, training and resources. This is all provided at no cost to the families. At Families Together, Inc. the staff consists of parents, grandparents or siblings to children with disabilities. All trainings and programs offered at Families Together are available in English as well as Spanish.

Inclusive Playgrounds

Derby Public Schools is currently hard at work determining the future of our playgrounds and how to make them accessible to all of our students and community members.

What is an “Inclusive Playground”?

Inclusive

adjective in-clu-sive \in- 'klü-siv, -ziv\

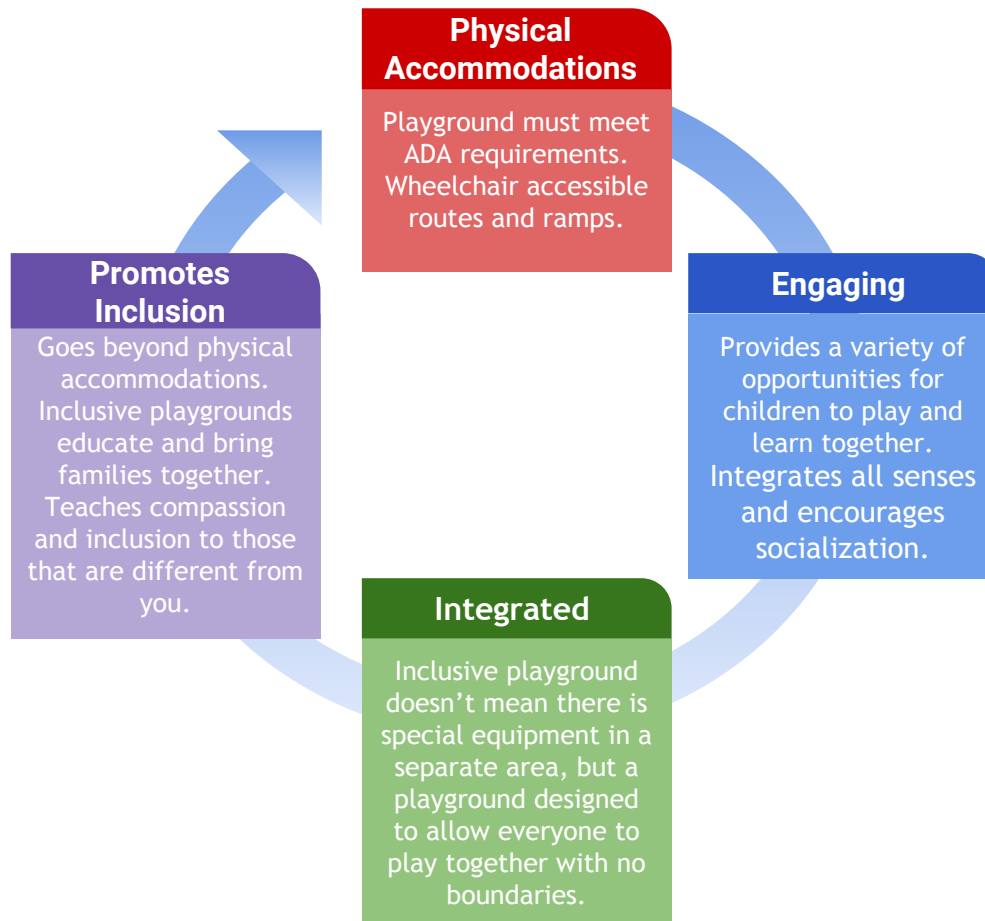
The simple definition of inclusive, according to

Merriam-Webster:

- : covering or including everything
- : open to everyone : not limited to certain people
- : including the stated limits and everything in between



Our goal with inclusive playgrounds is to provide a safe place where all children of all abilities can play together. Inclusive playgrounds are developmentally appropriate for children with and without disabilities. Every playground that is built or refurbished today must be ADA compliant. [See more thoughts on this topic in our recent article in the Derby Informer.](#) We look forward to working with all of you in our continued strive for inclusivity!



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