



Creating
Bright
Futures

SESSION

1

*Facilitator's
Script*



1 hour,
15 minutes total

Creating Bright Futures: A Vision for Including Young Children with Disabilities and their Families in Early Care and Education Programs



5 minutes

Introduction and Overview

Welcome to our training session on “Creating Bright Futures: A Vision for Including Young Children with Disabilities and their Families in Early Care and Education Programs.” My name is _____ . I represent the voice of _____ (family, early intervention, early care and education). Facilitating with me today are _____ (name/voice) and _____ (name/voice).



Facilitators briefly introduce themselves and describe the unique background and experiences they bring to this session.

In this session, we will begin to think about including young children with disabilities and their families in all early care and education programs—home-based, center-based, and family child care. When including young children with disabilities and their families, the first step is having a vision of what inclusion will look like. We will look at some inclusive programs serving young children with disabilities and their families.

Before we start, we'd like to get to know more about you. Please share your name, your role, your program, and one word or idea that comes to mind when you think about collaboration and teaming. Each participant has approximately 30 seconds to share.



Review Learning Outcomes and Agenda.

See Facilitator's Guide.

Learning Outcomes



Handout #1: Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for this session are:

- ♦ *Participants will consider their vision for including young children with disabilities and their families in early care and education programs.*
- ♦ *Participants will listen to families and service providers sharing their experiences in working together.*

Agenda

Agree on Ground Rules

Creating Bright Futures

- View DVD: *Creating Bright Futures*
- Discussion: Visions & Quotations

Wrap-Up

Reflections/Continuous Improvement



5–10 minutes



Agree on Ground Rules

See Facilitator's Guide.

Chart and post ground rules.



25 minutes total



10 minutes

Creating Bright Futures

View DVD: *Creating Bright Futures*

We are going to be thinking about visions for including infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in our programs.

When you begin to plan any program for children and families, you must think about what that program will be like. What do you want to accomplish for children, families, and the community? What do families in your community tell you about their visions for their children? What do service providers want to accomplish?

By answering these questions, you begin to clarify your own vision. Another way to clarify your vision is to consider other visions. That's why we are going to show the DVD, *Creating Bright Futures*, produced by the Hilton/Early Head Start Training Program. You will see footage of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in early care and education programs where early intervention services are provided in natural environments. These programs have actualized their vision of working together to include infants and toddlers with disabilities. These are settings in which the children and families have a sense of belonging and inclusion, and community partners work closely together. We'd like to thank the families and programs from across the country who allowed us to get a glimpse of their experiences.



Handout #2: Acknowledgements: *Creating Bright Futures*

Handout #3: Guided Viewing: *Creating Bright Futures*

Please take out Guided Viewing Handout #3. Write your comments and considerations on these questions as you view the DVD:

- ◆ *What vision of inclusion is illustrated in the DVD?*
- ◆ *What messages do people in the DVD share about working together?*



Start DVD: *Creating Bright Futures* (10 minutes)



15 minutes

Discussion: Visions and Quotations



What vision of inclusion is illustrated in the DVD?

What messages do people in the DVD share about working together?



Add any of the following key points not mentioned by the group:

- ◆ *You're not alone—teachers, families, specialists are all working together to make a difference.*
- ◆ *Children with disabilities can do things that no one thought they could do—others get to see that.*
- ◆ *See kids as kids first.*
- ◆ *They all want to do their best—they do their best with support.*
- ◆ *The child with a disability is considered just another child in the classroom.*

At the beginning of the DVD, there are several quotations. Let's look at your handout of quotations.



Handout #4: Quotations: *Creating Bright Futures*

Ask for volunteers to read the quotations aloud.

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."

—Lady Bird Johnson

"When I approach a child, he inspires in me two sentiments: tenderness for what he is and respect for what he will become."

—Louis Pasteur

"Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation."

—Everett Koop



What do these quotations say to you about your work with young children and their families?

What do these quotations tell you about working together to include infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in your community programs?

**Add any of the following key points not mentioned by the group:**

- ◆ *We need to have a vision of including infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families before it can become reality.*
- ◆ *Expectations of infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families shape program designs and services.*
- ◆ *Infants and toddlers with disabilities grow up, so we must think about their lives as contributing adults and work toward that vision from the very beginning.*
- ◆ *Everyone involved with children and families needs to work together to coordinate and maximize the services provided.*

Lady Bird Johnson and Louis Pasteur had positive, clear visions for the future of all children. Our belief is that including children with disabilities and their families will enhance their lives now and in the future.

The importance of inclusion and early intervention have been recognized by the federal government through legislation and regulations, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Head Start Performance Standards (HSPS), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. This legislation guarantees that individuals with disabilities will have access to the things that most people take for granted: a free, appropriate public education; meaningful work in the community; easy access to public places; and support to address unique, individual needs. The legislation is also intended to facilitate the coordination of services across the diverse service systems and professional disciplines serving infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. This emphasis on collaboration and teaming is the focus of the sessions in this volume.



5 minutes

Wrap-Up

The *Creating Bright Futures* DVD contains numerous ideas and can be used to think through many aspects of inclusion in early care and education programs.

Having a clear vision for collaborative inclusive services is an important element in providing quality services to young children with disabilities and their families. If your program or community does not have a vision for inclusive services, plan some time to work together to develop your team, program, or community vision.



Review the “Learning Outcomes.”

See Facilitator’s Guide.

As we work together in future sessions, you will have the opportunity to build on your vision as you collaborate with others to develop a broader vision for including young children with disabilities and their families in your community.



10 minutes

Reflections and Continuous Improvement

We would like to give you an opportunity to think about how this session applies to your work situation. Please take a few minutes and list 2–3 strategies you can start to use right away.



Gather Continuous Improvement feedback.

See Facilitator’s Guide.

Your suggestions for improvements help us to make our sessions responsive to your needs as learners. We’d like to hear about what worked for you in this session, and what could be done to facilitate your learning.



Divide a piece of chart paper into two columns, as shown. Entitle one column “**What Worked?**” and the other column “**Suggestions for Improvement?**”

| What worked? | Suggestions for Improvement? |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| | |

Chart participants’ comments without rebuttal or discussion. Facilitators can act on these suggestions, as appropriate, in future training sessions.





What worked for you today?

What suggestions for improvement do you have?

We appreciate your participation today.

End training session