Disability Informed Practice: Transforming Inclusive Learning Environments

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Objectives

- Summarize how positive inclusive practice transforms the larger social context for both individuals with and without disabilities
- Identify strategies for practice
- Develop an action plan to implement strategies to use in their own practice
Why are we here?
Teachers sometimes struggle to fully understand and value the contributions of children with disabilities, negatively impacting both the students with disabilities in their classrooms and the overall social climate in which children without disabilities learn to perceive their peers.
Kerry’s Story

- Background
- Changes in how the world perceives me
- Lessons learned
Cyndi’s Story

- Background
- Changes in how the world perceives us
- Lessons learned
Impact: Classroom Practice

We must lead educators to critically examine the role of culture and practice in inclusive classrooms.

- **Transformation**
  - power & practices in teaching and learning
- **Social**
  - critically understanding the role inclusion plays in the social experiences of all
Strategies to Engage Teachers

• Shift power structure
• Create space for uncertainty
• Focus on creating community
• Create systems of value
• Recognize needs vs. expectations
• Support generalization
This is why WE do this

Teachers must:

• become more vocal advocates
• eliminate barriers
• provide equity and social justice
• empower individuals to become self-advocates
Reflect

• Share one thing you are already doing...
• Share one thing you want to do or an idea/practice you want to develop....