



Tips for when you hit bumps in the road



A map for working better together

There are times when working together for inclusion may not go smoothly. Pinpointing where things have gone wrong will help you to find a starting point to get back on track.

Working together is not always easy, but it *is* possible, it *is* best practice, and it *is* worth it.



“What’s happening isn’t inclusive.”

Inclusion in an early childhood education and care setting is about every child actively and meaningfully participating in all aspects of the service’s program.

Inclusion team members need a shared understanding of inclusion to be able to work as a team together. When this understanding differs, exclusionary practices can happen that impact on a child’s participation, play opportunities with peers, and their sense of belonging.

Examples of exclusionary practices may include: a child being separated from their everyday play and social environment to have one-on-one therapy; a child being ‘shadowed’ by an adult; or a child’s hours of attendance being limited.

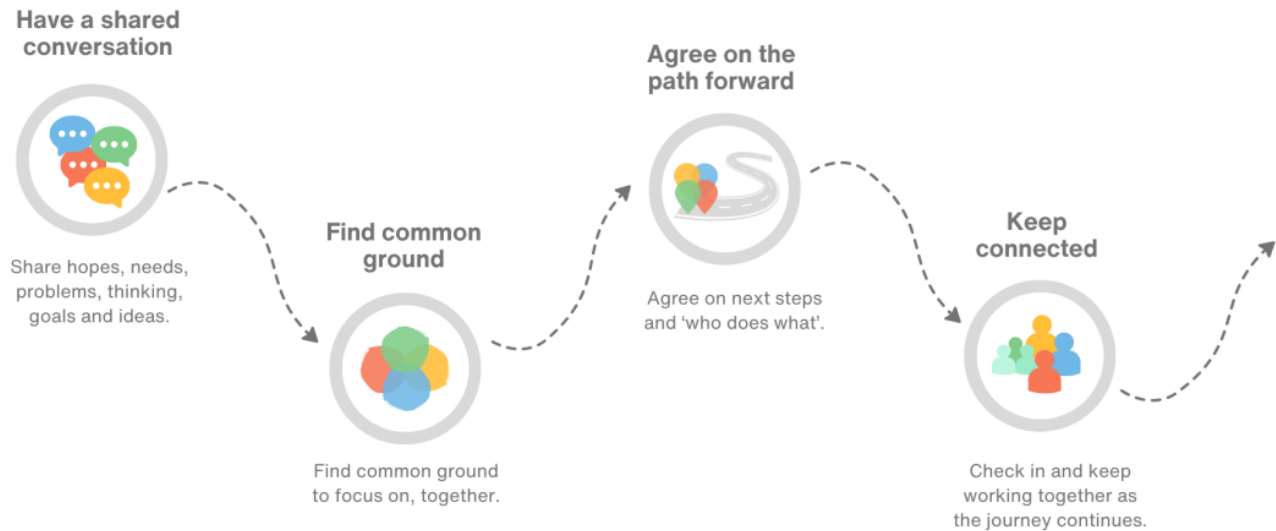
To have a shared understanding of inclusion in an ECEC setting and get the inclusion team journey back on track:


- ▶ Re-set the team journey through a shared conversation whenever there is a bump in the road. This will help to address issues quickly.



- ▶ Work through this *Best Practice Quick Check*:
 - Does the activity support the child’s participation in the ECEC program?
 - Is the role of the child’s same-aged peers included in the planning?
 - Can the planned activities happen in the natural, everyday environment of the ECEC service alongside peers?
 - Are planned activities play-based and fun?
 - Have the child’s interests, preferences and choices informed your decision making?
 - Do agreed actions represent the shared priorities of the team?
- ▶ Refer to *Inclusion Together Best Practice* for more detailed information.
- ▶ Visit the [Understanding Inclusion](#) section of the NSW/ACT Inclusion Agency website to review the resources and discuss concepts and ideas with the team.
- ▶ Watch the [Benefits of Inclusion](#) Vimeo and share your reflections with the team.
- ▶ Watch [What is Inclusion?](#) and discuss whether current practices are inclusive.
- ▶ Review and discuss ECA’s [Statement on Inclusion of every child in early education and care](#).
- ▶ Read Quality Area 2 of the [Best Practice in Early Intervention National Guidelines](#) and share how this could guide what you do as a team. These guidelines include research that found it is more effective to learn new skills in a natural environment rather than in an isolated setting.

- ▶ Consider if a shared priority that is not possible in the ECEC setting can be implemented at home or in another community setting such as playgroup. Also think about whether there is another way that ideas and strategies could be implemented.
- ▶ Continue to use the *Inclusion Together* map...



 **“I need some more help.”**

If the inclusion team needs further help, access these inclusion support organisations and resources:



- ▶ [Family Advocacy](#)
- ▶ [Kindred](#)
- ▶ [Reimagine Australia](#)
- ▶ [Thrivary](#)



- ▶ [PRECIS: Professionals and Researchers in Early Childhood Intervention](#)
- ▶ [Reimagine Australia](#)
- ▶ [Thrivary](#)



- ▶ [Disability Discrimination ACT \(1992\) resources](#)
- ▶ [Inclusion Agencies](#) provides free tailored inclusion support to educators in Commonwealth funded centre-based day care, family day care and out of school hours care services across Australia.
- ▶ [Reimagine Australia](#)

- ▶ State funded programs provide inclusion support to community-based kindergartens and preschools. The structure and focus of these programs vary from state to state. For example,

- New South Wales – [Sector Capacity Building Program](#)
- Queensland - [Kindergarten Inclusion Support Scheme](#)
- Victoria - [Kindergarten Inclusion Support \(KIS\) Contacts](#)

Contact your relevant state or territory education department for information and contact details.

- ▶ [Thrivary](#)

Click [here](#) to find out more about *Inclusion Together* or go to <https://inclusionagency.nswact.org.au/about/inclusion-together>