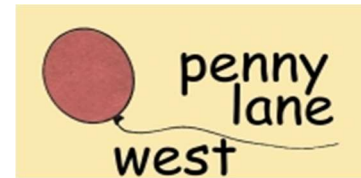


**Bloomington Day Care Corp.
(dba Penny Lane)**



INCLUSION PLAN

An inclusive childcare is where all children, with or without special needs, are provided the opportunity to play and learn together. Penny Lane addresses the special needs and interests of each individual child, including those with disabilities and special rights. Part of our Program Philosophy is to provide all children the right to be included with their peers in all age-appropriate activities and focus on individual strengths. In other words, our inclusive program maintains daily routines for all children, regardless of their disability or special right.

Our goal to provide inclusive childcare is for all children in our program to be able to do their personal best, feel successful and truly be members of their group. Penny Lane offers a safe, secure and comfortable place where children can grow and learn at their own pace.

There are several benefits to families, as well as providers, from the inclusive childcare services we offer. Services enable parents to work or continue their education, plus children are in a secure and nurturing environment. Our teaching staff understand that families have valuable ideas to share, plus we provide several resources for families. Penny Lane has a program support team that includes; Administrative Director, Curriculum/Program Director, Lead Teacher, and any Specialist involved. Our local Child Care Resource and Referral Office can also help make inclusion an easier process for everyone involved.

Since children come with both negative and positive behaviors, our program promotes ways to include diverse children who have special needs and interests. Services can help parents learn to accept their own child's strengths and needs, as well as share common experiences with others.

Our program strives to develop a network of professional services and community resources.

Teachers expand their knowledge about disabilities and special needs through training and educational classes. Penny Lane teachers create an enriched classroom setting to help encourage understanding and flexibility for all our children's needs. Diversity is appreciated by developing compassion, kindness, and respect for others.



The key to successful inclusion of young children in early childhood settings is the provision of training, technical assistance and support to staff. This training, technical assistance and support are available through the Inclusion Specialists in all Child Care Resource and Referral agencies throughout Indiana.

The benefits of Inclusion for children with or without disabilities are:

- Making new friends.
- Learning through modeling others.
- Children maintain more pride in their achievements.
- Interdependence is developed and the ability to deal with obstacles.
- Similarities are known as well.
- Language and communication skills are developed better.
- Interpersonal skills are developed.
- Better problem-solving skills are promoted.
- Children learn to become more assertive.
- Self-respect is learned.
- Children learn to accept others just as they are.
- Patience and compassion is developed.
- Children learn to accept their own strengths and needs.
- Most important; we learn to help others.

RESOURCE INFORMATION:

Federal and State Laws Affecting Child Care

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is the federal law passed in 1990 to protect persons with disabilities. The following are parts of ADA that affect child care:

- • Title I - Privately operated centers employing 15 or more people may not discriminate in employment practices based on a disability.
- • Title II - All settings receiving any government funds [such as CACFP or CCDF dollars] may not discriminate based on a disability in offering individuals the opportunity to participate in a service, program or activity.
- • Title III - Centers and family child care homes must provide equal opportunity to children, parents and others with disabilities to participate in programs and services.
- • Questions regarding child care and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the U.S. Department of Justice, ADA Information Line at 1-800-514-0301. A reference guide is also available at www.ada.gov/childq%26a.htm.

A setting that includes children with disabilities, or an inclusive setting, is a setting in which:

1. All children, those with and without disabilities, have an opportunity to play and learn together;
2. The special needs and interests of each child, including those with disabilities, are addressed;
3. The philosophy is based on the belief that all children have the right to be included with their peers in all age-appropriate activities throughout life;
4. A child with a disability is included in the daily routines of an already appropriate program

(Child Care plus+ Curriculum on Inclusion: Practical Strategies for Early Childhood Programs).

PARENT/ TEACHER RESOURCES:

Indiana First Steps

Indiana First Steps is a family-centered, coordinated system that provides early intervention services to the families of children from birth to three years of age who have disabilities/ developmental delays or who show signs of being at-risk of being developmentally vulnerable in the future. First Steps brings together families and professionals from the education, health, and social service sectors in order to coordinate locally available services. First Steps is working to give Indiana's children and their families the widest possible array of appropriate early intervention services.

For more information on the above services or to make a referral to the First Steps system, call 317-233-6092.

Special Education Cooperatives/Lead Education Agency

Once children reach three years of age, special education services are provided through the local school system. Children MAY qualify for services if any of the following are present: autism spectrum disorder, communication disorder, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, emotional disability, hearing impairment, learning disability, mental disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment. School systems may offer services through a special education preschool cooperative to preschool age children who have a disability.

To locate services, contact the local school system's main office or the Division of Exceptional Learners at the Indiana Department of Education at 317-232-0570.

Indiana Partnership for Inclusive Child Care (IPICC)

The Indiana Partnership for Inclusive Child Care (IPICC) educates providers so that they have a better understanding that developmentally appropriate care for one child is developmentally appropriate care for ALL children. The key to successful inclusion of young children in early childhood settings is the provision of training, technical assistance, and support to staff, all of which are available through the Inclusion Specialists in all Child Care Resource and Referral agencies throughout Indiana.

For more information or to inquire about services contact your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency or the Indiana Association for Child Care Resource and Referral (IACCRR) at 1-800-299-1627 or visit www.iaccrr.org.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES:

<u>Agency/Resource</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>	<u>Nature of Service</u>
Office of Family and Children	1-812-336-6351	(Monroe County)
MCCSC – Monroe County Community School Corporation Special Education Program	1-812-349-4756	Educational Services
Indiana Family Helpline	1-800-433-0746	Family Assistance
CASY (Chances & Services for Youth)	1-800-886-3952	Resource & Referral Agency
Head Start/Early Head Start	1-800-382-9895	Early Intervention
Healthy Families Indiana	1-812-323-4631	Health care services
FSSA – (Family and Social Services Administration)	1-800-441-7837	State of Indiana
Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP)	1-812-353-2020	Resources/ Help
Indiana University- School of Optometry Speech & Hearing	1-812-855-8436 1-812-855-6251	Health/ Vision Research/ Language
Monroe County Public Health	1-812-353-3244	Health care services
Department of Education	1-800-537-1142	Educational services
Information/ Referral Services	1-800-433-0746	Resources/Referrals



