Evaluating Inclusive Practices

Use these tips to make evaluations of special education staff and monitor quality inclusive practices in your school.

Establish a rapport!
Compliment teacher strengths! Don’t forget to recognize the accomplishments and celebrate the journey!

Look for evidence of collaboration!
Check the schedule to see that educators are utilizing shared planning periods and are making curriculum agreements. Is everyone mutually involved?

Uncover the impact of assessments.
Are student IEPs adjusted to reflect the results of assessments? Do ALL students in your school participate in the statewide assessments?

Make observations daily!
Capitalize on your informal observations! Notice implementation of modifications & accommodations, team teaching practices, and active student participation. Daily observations may reveal solutions to troublesome issues.

Check with other educators.
Has the special educator established his or her role? Ask general educators for their input: What works? What doesn’t? Do they feel comfortable soliciting the expertise of the special educator? Is everyone’s expertise utilized?

Uncover the impact of assessments.
Are student IEPs adjusted to reflect the results of assessments? Do ALL students in your school participate in the statewide assessments?

Look for progressive inclusive practices.
Ask how your special educator has made use of the knowledge gained from in-services or specialized trainings!

Make observations daily!
Capitalize on your informal observations! Notice implementation of modifications & accommodations, team teaching practices, and active student participation. Daily observations may reveal solutions to troublesome issues.

Hold educators accountable for legal issues.
Review documentation for legal compliance. Teachers expect your review of up-to-date and complete student records. An IEP should identify the level of support a child needs.

Find out how problems are solved.
Problems always arise in education, but how do your teachers eliminate barriers that create problems? Are the plans implemented?

Observe instructional practices!
Follow and adhere to your district’s evaluation guidelines, but don’t hesitate to go beyond! Remember to make several informal as well as formal visits. Always notify teachers of formal visits.

Look for partnerships with families!
Consider checking for documentation of family contact. How has the teacher included families in communications and as an expert resource?