OPERATING STANDARDS

for

HIGH QUALITY
INCLUSIVELY CHILD CARE
OPERATING STANDARDS

• What is inclusion

• The history of inclusionary practices in the ECE field…what have we been doing and why

• Today’s parents
Poll Question #1

- What is the biggest obstacle to a center operating an inclusive program?
  - 1. Not sure what inclusion means
  - 2. Teachers being afraid
  - 3. Staff doesn’t have enough information
  - 4. The unwillingness of the Center Director
Tools from the past

- Rights and responsibilities
- The ADA
- Importance of Partnerships
- Focused on the child and the classroom
Poll Question #2

What does FLK stand for?

1. Federally Legislated Kinship
2. Funny Looking Kid
3. Families with Legal Knowledge
4. Funding for Local Keystones
Our project: The Operating Standards

- Completed and published in 2007
- Informed by the field
- Essential collaborations with NAEYC, NACCRA, and others
- Not the final word
What Directors Really Need

• What to do

• How to do it

• Moving towards the goal
SURVEY SAYS

• OPERATIONS

• PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

• TEACHER/THERAPIST INTEGRATION

• STAFF TRAINING and RESOURCES
Poll Question #3

• What is the accurate percentage of ECE classrooms in the United States that are inclusive

• 1. 3%
• 2. 7%
• 3. 13%
• 4. More than 20%
OPERATIONS

- How many of “those kids” is OK?

- Assessment & Planning, IEP’s and all!

- The challenge of ratios and group sizes; “let’s throw some money at the problem”.

- Be a resource to others
PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

• Formal, ongoing, consistent communication

• Communicate the benefits of inclusion

• Training and support for parental advocacy
TEACHER/THERAPIST INTEGRATION

- Seriously, what does this mean?
- Education vs. Medical model
- Turf issues
- What Easter Seals learned
More on integration

• Therapy in the classroom
• Planning and communication
• Education and Therapy goals, oh my!