

Air Force Personnel Center



**Supporting
Children and
Youth With
Special Needs**



Overview

- "Child First" Language
- Benefits vs. Entitlements
- Reasonable Accommodation
- Best Placement
- Inclusion Action Team



One Team, One Family, One Mission

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“Child First” Language



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**Benefit, Entitlement,
Reasonable Accommodation....**



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Entitlement vs. Benefit

- **Entitlement** : *a right to benefits specified especially by law or contract*
 - Insurance
 - Housing
 - Educational Opportunities
 - Health Care
 - Free Appropriate Public Education
- **Benefit**: *a service provided by an employer in addition to wages or salary*
 - Child Care





Reasonable Accommodation

- Child care so Airmen can go to work...
 - Center or home - On or off installation
- Quality, inclusive care and recreational experiences
 - adjustments to room arrangements, materials, specialized equipment, ratio adjustments***
 - Limited medical-type support with specialized training from the medical community (Glucagon, EpiPen; dietary)
- Support for families with children/youth with special needs
 - Referrals to installations/community agencies
 - Social support with other families
 - Age and Stages Questionnaire (CDC)

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1. Our mission is to provide care for children-it is not our responsibility to meet a child's IEP/IFSP goals, although we assist in supporting them when we can. Because the school has a responsibility to meet children's education goals, the ratios at school and our programs may be different.
2. Whenever possible, we will support IEP/IFSP goals
3. Rooms may be rearranged to assist children with physical mobility challenges. Outdoor play experiences may also need to be adjusted.
4. Whenever possible, we can assist with the children's medical needs-within the parameters of group care. Training must be provided by medical professionals to assist with meeting these needs.
5. The ASQ tool is provided to families as a assessment tool for them to use to track development.
6. Because of the ages of the children in our program, many families receive their initial diagnosis while their children are in our care.



Best Placement

- In assisting families with placement, the following must be considered:
 - Are we looking at the child/youth as an individual and not as a diagnosis?
 - Will the child/youth be successful in the adult/child ratio established for that age group?
 - Will the child/youth be successful in the group size established for that age group?
 - Will the child/youth be successful with the program structure (i.e. free flow environment in School-Age Program)
 - What specialized training will need to be provided?

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Remember, our focus should be on what is best for the child. We want the child to be comfortable and successful.



Inclusion Action Team



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