Making Inclusion Work

Lynn Clarke, CTRS
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A little bit about Lynn

• Love my family
• Love what I do
• Love sharing what I do
• Love learning about what others do
A little bit about Nikki

• It all started on a snowy day in 1982…
• Loves summer camp!

Learning Objectives

• Learn new activities
• New Techniques for training staff to adapt activities
• Keep camp excitement all summer
How inclusion is budgetary friendly

- If you have the program you have the staff
- Cross training is cheaper than hiring specialized staff
- Possibility for volunteers...easier to keep them/retain them
- Cheaper to hire one extra staff or create a entire new program
  - More supplies
  - More equipment
  - More planning

Who can be included and How?

- Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Transgender, physical disabilities, EBD, Mental Illness, etc.
- 1:1 ratios, encouragement, time away from group, music, personal interests
- Just do it...the rest will fall in place. Not going for perfection you are going for progress.
What are the barriers?

- Physical
  - Environmental
  - Individual
- Social
  - Inclusion
  - Adaptive
- Emotional
- Spiritual
- Cognitive
- Acceptance/Awareness/Education
  - First day of camp/program
- Money – you have it…you just don't know it
- Things aren't always perfect!
When is inclusion appropriate, or not?

- When the campers is more successful in a personalized setting
- When your staff isn't willing to do it
- When you don't have someone that knows what the are doing
- When you don't have all the “right” equipment

When does burnout affect inclusion?

- Do you always need continuity?
- Exciting games and activities
- Staff appreciation
- What do you do?
Kids Included Together

- Great organization that now charges an incredible amount to be a part of their training...however...
- In our experience kids that are included both with and w/out the special need are:
  - More confident
  - Better communicators
  - Have more compassion
  - See the world with less barriers and more opportunities

TR camp and Inclusion Camp activities

- What are typical camp games you play?
- Dance
- Swim
- SPARK
- Kick Ball
- Meet me in the middle
- Hungry hungry Hippo
Where did we get all of this from?

- Gender Boxes- www.keshetonline.org
- SPARK- sparkpe.org
- KIT- kitonline.org
- Nikki Downey ndowney@mayersonjcc.org
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conclusion

- It's not easy