

*Successful inclusion is based on the understanding of creating environments so that all students can be successful, regardless of their ability.<sup>3</sup>*

*In inclusive classrooms students with disabilities report experiencing reduced isolation and a greater sense of belonging.<sup>4</sup>*

- Regulation 181/98 under the Education Act of Ontario has called for placement of children in **regular classrooms as a first option**. When a special education option is offered, **Parents** have the right to disagree and refuse the placement.
- **Parents** have the right to advocate for the placement they feel is most appropriate for their child.

## Education for all means:

*Ensuring that all children have access to basic education of good quality. This implies creating an environment in schools and in basic education programs in which children are both able and enabled to learn...<sup>UNESCO</sup>*

### Quotations

- <sup>1,2,4</sup> Dr. Sheila Bennett, Professor Brock University  
<sup>2</sup> Dr. J. Freeman, Professor Queen's University  
<sup>3</sup> Dr. Gordon Porter, Consultant and Educator

This pamphlet was developed for you by Brock University and Community Living Toronto.

# The Benefits of INCLUSION in the Classroom



*Educators within a classroom are the most influential factor in promoting successful inclusion within educational settings, not just in classrooms but in hallways and staffrooms.<sup>1</sup>*

## Tools and Resources

**Off to School:** A page on ConnectABILITY.ca with resources for parents and educators.  
<http://connectability.ca/2012/08/21/off-to-school/>

**Spinclusion:** A game celebrating differences, including everyone, can be played in the classroom.  
<http://www.spinclusion.ca/>

**Community Living Ontario:** Education advocacy and inclusion resource library.  
<http://www.communitylivingontario.ca/inclusive>



## Benefits for all Students

- Greater opportunity for friendships
- Increased social network
- More respect for others
- Shared learning opportunities
- Increased safety by reducing isolation
- Higher academic expectations
- Access to a wider range of school resources
- Increased collaboration and participation
- A more welcoming, positive school environment
- Readiness for inclusion outside of school

## Did you know...

Research has found that schools with highly developed inclusive programs had educators who:

- Foster a shared vision
- Collaborate with parents and other professionals
- Engage in ongoing professional development
- Use evidence-based decision making
- Understand and implement policies that lead to positive change

*Research reports positive effects from inclusion in the classroom.<sup>2</sup>*