

## **Collaborative Partnership: Fostering a Holistic and Inclusive School Environment and Community**

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**Literature research has shown that intervention is more effective for the child when the supporting resources or services are coordinated. Through our experience in providing intervention as Early Intervention (EI) Professionals from the Development Support Plus (DS Plus) programme, we have found that a coordinated support system fosters a more holistic and inclusive school environment and community.**

Drawing on the Index for inclusion (Booth & Ainscow, 2016), we have found several key indicators for our practice, such as:

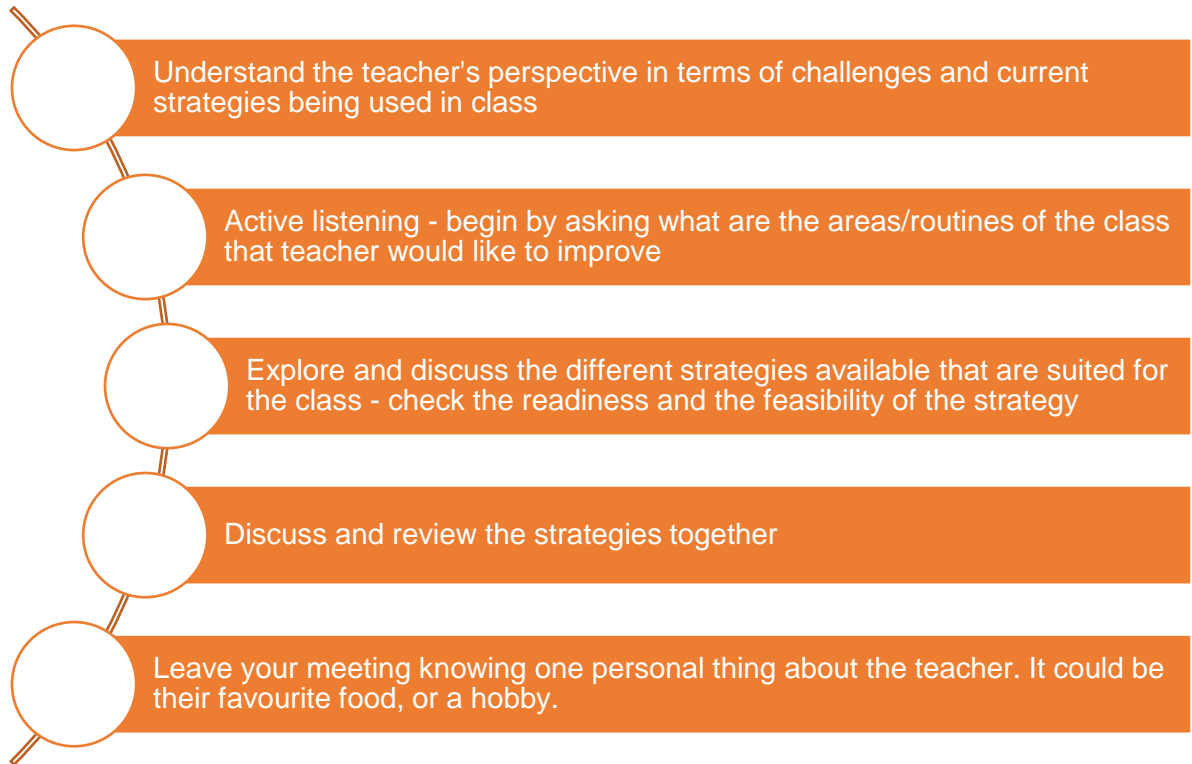
- *Inclusion is viewed as increasing participation for all*
- *Learning activities encourage the participation of all children*
- *Staff develop shared resources to support learning*
- *All forms of support are coordinated*
- *Staff expertise is known and used*
- *Parents/carers invited to discussions and informed about children's education*

Before we elaborate further on the collaborative process, allow us to share about the work we do. In the DS Plus programme, we visit preschools to support children with mild-moderate developmental needs. Through joint discussion for goal setting and intervention strategy planning, this programme seeks to promote engagement and collaboration with the preschool teachers in supporting children with additional needs. Additionally, we seek to create open communication between families and preschool in regards to the child's developmental needs.

Through our journey with different preschools, we understand that teaching and managing a classroom of 20-30 children can be physically, mentally and emotionally challenging. Therefore, as an EI service provider, we begin a fruitful partnership by demonstrating active listening to the teacher's experiences. We also seek to understand the class' diversity, before sharing strategies and providing intervention for our clients.

To illustrate further on a collaborative partnership, we have compiled a list of helpful tips and a glimpse of how we incorporate inclusive practices into our daily work. Check them out below!

**Steps to take to encourage a collaborative partnership:**



**Scenario:**



## Useful tips:

- a. Collaboration is key: mutual understanding and consensus on developing solutions and strategies benefits the entire team (child, family, preschool and EI team).
- b. Additional reading resource to consider:
  - i. Collaborative consultation to Children's Classroom (CC2CC - [http://eieio.ua.edu/uploads/1/1/0/1/110192129/cc2cc\\_checklist\\_english.pdf](http://eieio.ua.edu/uploads/1/1/0/1/110192129/cc2cc_checklist_english.pdf)) retrieved 12th June 2020 from <http://eieio.ua.edu/materials.html>
  - ii. Booth, T., & Ainscow, M. (2016). The index for inclusion: A guide to school development led by inclusive values (4th ed.). Cambridge: Index for Inclusion Network.