

MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

"INCLUSION STARTS WITH BEING INTENTIONAL IN CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE."

- JOYA TAN, PHYSIOTHERAPIST



Same context, different definitions.



Two children with additional needs may not necessarily have the same expectations of what gives them a sense of inclusion.

For example, Child A, living with an amputated leg, feels empowered when he is able to walk around with a leg prosthesis. He hates it when he is offered a wheelchair.

However, Child B who is also a leg amputee, may not necessarily feel the same. He may be struggling with other conditions that makes walking around with a prosthesis challenging. Thus, he appreciates the aid of a wheelchair, and when his family members help him to move around.

"Seek to understand their needs and expectations and avoid forcing our opinion on them."

Pause and reflect.



1) Since each child with additional needs can be unique, what about the family's needs or expectations?

2) What small steps can we take to understand a family's needs and expectations?

"Inclusion involves connecting with the family."



Let's find out from Joya on how she forges meaningful home-school partnerships!



INVOLVING THE FAMILY

As key advocates in their child's inclusion journey, caregivers are part of the team that helps create learning opportunities for their child to maximise his or her potential.

SETTING COMMON GOALS



Caregivers, educators and support professionals (e.g., learning support educators, therapists) can work together to come up with common goals and objectives based on family priorities. This helps to ensure consistency in the home and school environment for the child to work on identified skills and achieve independence.

PARTNERING CAREGIVERS



Through regular bite-size sharing of information or even cross-sharing of what works at home and in school, caregivers become more confident in caring for and teaching their child at home. We also recognise that each family has its own strengths and resources that can be tapped on to work towards the goals set.

Click [here](#) to find out how you can foster positive home-school partnerships with the families you work with!