Dimensions of Inclusion

Choosing

Contribution

Being Respected

Sharing Ordinary Places

Belonging
What do we need to learn to do so that people with disabilities become part of ordinary community life?
Services come between people and their communities by becoming THE place for them to be

This isolates people and cuts off chances for mutual contribution and learning, even when it is done by caring staff concerned with people’s happiness and safety.
Helping people stay safe and healthy is important. There is no excuse for neglect or abuse.

But health and safety can be excuses for taking over control of people’s whole lives. A good thing can become the only thing and take away chances for growth.

The challenge is to help people be safe and healthy as they grow by participating in community life.
Sometimes the service world becomes the whole world to people.

Even people who care about people can lose sight of the real possibilities in community life.

This gap allows negative attitudes to flourish.
Possibilities grow when services change their focus and learn to support people to contribute to their communities.

Real change begins when people join with those who know them and care about them to search for opportunities to participate and contribute.

High quality services encourage and assist by learning to do 5 basic tasks.
1. Discovering interests & gifts

2. Creating community opportunities

3. Supporting connections

4. Providing assistance

5. Safeguarding
Five Valued Experiences

Belonging

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Sharing Ordinary Places
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The Values of Inclusion

- Everyone is born in
- All means All
- Everyone needs to be in
- Everyone needs to be with
- Everyone is ready
- Everyone needs support – some more than others
- Everyone can communicate
- Everyone can learn
The Values of Inclusion cont’d…

• Everyone can contribute
• Together we’re better
We pray for the fragile ecology of the heart and the mind. The sense of meaning. So finely assembled and balanced and so easily overturned. The careful, ongoing construction of love. As painful and exhausting as the struggle for truth and as easily abandoned.

Hard fought and won are the shifting sands of this sacred ground, this ecology. Easy to desecrate and difficult to defend, this vulnerable joy, this exposed faith, this precious order. This sanity.

We shall be careful. With others and with ourselves.

Michael Leunig
Work with the people around you for 7 minutes, and talk with each other about:

What have we learned about what builds personal relationships?

We’ll then take 3 minutes to collect some of your ideas.
Lessons In Welcome

Think about a time that you learned something important about welcoming a stranger – someone who seemed very different, at least at first. This might be a person with a disability, but it need not be. Talk together about what happened and what you learned about creating welcome. Were there any fears in the situation? If there were, what worked to deal with them? Were there awkward or uncomfortable moments? If there were, what worked to deal with them? What were the good things and what were the hard things about bringing a stranger in from the outside?

What happened?