

The background of the slide features a blue gradient with several stylized, 3D-rendered human figures in a light blue color. These figures are arranged in a line, holding hands, symbolizing unity and inclusion. The figures are semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible over them.

# **Inclusion**

## **Providing Early Intervention in Early Head Start & Child Care Settings**

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# Inclusion



It is not just about  
the where  
It's about  
the how

# Natural Environments



## IDEA 303.18

- ...means settings that are natural or normal for the child's age peers who have no disability

## Indicator 2

- % of infants & toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive EI services in the home or programs for typically developing children

# Inclusion



*birth-five*  
**SpecialQuest**



**New Mexico**

**STATE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

# Christopher's Story



- The SpecialQuest Video of Christopher's Story can be found at:

[http://76.249.171.46/specialquest/trainingmaterials/searchvideos\\_results.lasso](http://76.249.171.46/specialquest/trainingmaterials/searchvideos_results.lasso)

# Just Do It!



- **Successful inclusion involves making sure that each child's specialized needs are met in all the settings in his or her life**
- **Close, ongoing communication among family members, early interventionists, and early care and education service providers ensure that specialized activities infused into daily routines are successful**
- **Ideas about specific strategies, accommodations, and activities that can be adapted for individual children and settings**

# Just Do It!



- Just Do It video can be found at:

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# Reflections



- Small Groups - Discuss
  - What are your initial reactions to the video?
  - What accommodations did you see?
  - *What other adaptations and accommodations can be used?*
  - *How can this be accomplished?*

# Working together



**Early Intervention and Early Childhood Programs are Natural Partners**

# Where?



- Large group discussion:
  - What are the advantages of providing Early Intervention Services in Early Childhood settings?

# Scenarios



Implementation of Early Intervention Services in an inclusive Early Childhood Setting can be complex, frustrating and sometimes scary!

In your groups review the different scenarios and discuss/record the following:

- How would you support the child?
- How would you support the family?
- How would you support the staff at the early childhood program?
- How would you support the EI team?
- How would you support the Agency?
- What practices would you change/enhance to make Inclusion in early childhood programs happen?

# Communication is the key for successful partnerships



- Who is part of the team?
  - Families, Early Childhood Program, Early Intervention Program
- How do we work together?
  - Child Find events – referrals to/from
  - Intake process
  - IFSP Development, including the EC program as a Strategy to meet family outcomes – ECO
  - Observations – Observe setting and routines
  - Consultation – Planning
  - Early Intervention services
  - Assessments
  - Addendums – Annual Revisions
  - Transition Conferences
  - Determining Present Levels of Performance
  - Other examples?

# Proposed Changes



As a partner in Special Quest, Part C will be making some changes to our system to incorporate Inclusion Practice in specific areas of Early Intervention including:

- Service Coordination Modules
- It's Only Natural (Natural Environments)
- Early Childhood Coordinator's- a brief overview of Inclusive Practices at the Annual Meeting, with follow-up at the local level to include Regional meetings and provider one on one with direct staff.

# Proposed Changes



- Support providers to access Special Quest training materials.
- Include language about Inclusive practices in all contracts with weighted points during the RFP years, and add to the scope of work.
- Incorporate Inclusive Practices in Monitoring for EI providers
- Inclusive practice incorporated into IDPD & competencies for all staff

Join us in the quest for inclusion

