

# REALIZE *more*

An online information, sharing and community resource for individuals with disabilities, parents, carers and professionals

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## How to create an inclusive classroom

**Inclusive classrooms lie at the heart of accessible education - find out how to make your classroom inclusive**

To create an inclusive classroom, we must first create an inclusive school, that is a school that adheres to an ethos and values that promote and support inclusivity. This should be reflected in practice through the school's policies, procedures, environment and day to day delivery.

When creating an inclusive classroom, we must first ask ourselves some questions:

- Think about your own values and approach to disability, gender, race etc. Does how you teach acknowledge the experiences of the students from different backgrounds? Is your approach non-stereotypical? Do you encourage alternative perspectives, debate ideas, create an environment which is open to representation of different viewpoints?
- Are your students treated as individuals, encouraged to share their own lives and interests?
- Are your examples non-stereotypical?

### 5 inclusive practices:

1. Create an environment that is welcoming, supportive and respectful environment: promoting diversity and equality
2. Set high expectations of ALL your students focusing on your students' abilities rather than their disabilities.
3. Create a culture that is supportive both within the classroom and in your relationships with their parents/ carers. Role modelling and practicing this culture within the classroom will give students the values and skills to respect and trust others, empathize and care for others.
4. Develop sessions/lessons that are participatory for everyone. You can achieve this by creating an environment which person centred and focuses on what students can do rather than what they are unable to do, and what they would like to do next. This approach can be realised through developing IEP's with students, and short- and long-term goal setting which is then monitoring and evaluated with the student giving them a sense of ownership over their learning and increasing their commitment to fulfill their potential.
5. Make learning REAL, use existing and new links within your community to bring the community into your classroom as well as taking field trips to enhance learning. It will give students the participate in learning, which is relatable, fun and engaging, with the opportunity to share their culture and lived experiences, as well as offering alternative learning styles.

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