

www.inclusionproject.org

## **National Inclusion Project**

Inclusion means all participate and all belong. We work every day to make the inclusion of children with disabilities a reality. Since our inception, we have made a real impact by ensuring that children nationwide can experience all that life has to offer.

Our mission: The National Inclusion Project serves to bridge the gap that exists between young people with disabilities and the world around them. We partner with communities and inclusive programs creating awareness about the possibilities that inclusion can bring.

## Let's ALL Play

- A research-validated program model that brings an inclusive experience to children with and without disabilities.
- Major partners include YMCA's, Boy's and Girl's Clubs, Girl Scouts, Parks and Recs., Institute on Disability, University of Minnesota, Camp Shriver, Communities in Schools, ARCs, FPG-UNC, and other
- To date we have partnered with over 170 programs and impacted over 50,000 children.
- Improving sport/motor skills, self esteem, social skills, social relationships, engagement in camp for all children, giving staff of recreational programs confidence to serve all children, and impacting parents.

## **Our Partners**



# Partners Report Improvement of Campers with Disabilities

Level of Improvement:	Motor Skills	Social Skills	Self-Esteem
Little to no improvement	3%	3%	3%
	14%	13%	12%
Moderate improvement	37%	30%	30%
	30%	31%	38%
High improvement	15%	23%	17%

## Together We Make A Difference/LEAP

- An inclusive service learning curriculum impacting self determination, civic engagement, and diversity of social networks.
- Curriculum available for in and out of school activities

"Prior to attending camp, my son's vocabulary consisted of two words. At the end of the summer, he could say 12 words including saying Mom for the first time."

#### We have work to do...

- The benefits of inclusion are clear for both children with and without a disability
- Only 7% of summer recreational programs are inclusive
- No group in our society should have to sit on the sidelines

## National Inclusion Project Goals

#### Children

- Expand access to Let's ALL Play programs across the country
- Deliver Together We Make a Difference to classrooms and out-of-school-time programs
- Create best-practice resources for program staff

## National Inclusion Project Goals

#### **Families**

- Establish national database for parents, agencies, and other community organizations for state-by-state inclusive resources
- Develop and market training kits and seminars for families to help their child thrive in an inclusive world
- Create positive support groups for families to network with each other in their community

## National Inclusion Project Goals

## **Communities/Society**

- Expand program provider training through online education and develop regional expertise
- Educate audiences about benefits of inclusion
- Establish accreditation/certification for programs and staff across the country
- Improve and develop programs through data collection and research-based evaluations
- Develop partnerships for a National Inclusion Awareness campaign

#### Together...

- We will open more doors for children of all abilities
- We will train hundreds of counselors and associates
- We will provide scholarships to assist families
- We will define best practices assuring families
- Participation by all will be the expectation
- Children will learn and focus on abilities not disabilities

We will ensure that no child sits on the sidelines!

