

Collaboration and Teamwork: Parents and Families

Parents play a crucial role in helping their children learn and develop.

The consultation and involvement of parents and families are critical success factors in inclusive education. The school must ensure that:

- ✓ Effective arrangements are made for involving parents in all aspects of their children's school lives and decisions that have to be made;
- ✓ Such arrangements should involve counselling and support that lead to independence;
- ✓ With the permission of parents/caregivers, schools maintain information about parents who themselves are disabled so that their access and inclusion needs can be met; and
- ✓ Be sensitive to the needs of caregivers of children who are orphaned or are living in child-headed households.



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The Institute of Specialist Practitioners in Inclusive Education

Source:
Department: Basic Education. 2010. *Guidelines for Full Service/Inclusive Schools*.
Pretoria: Government Publications.
Available at: <https://www.education.gov.za>

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Communication within the school and to parents must be accessible:

- ✓ The school recognises that not everyone communicates via written or spoken English.
- ✓ Audit the communication needs within the school and for the parent community and provide notices, reports, information and directions in appropriate forms, for example:

- ☞ Home languages
- ☞ Large or reduced print
- ☞ Braille
- ☞ Digital text, tape, videos in South African Sign Language
- ☞ Computer discs, DVDs, USBs and pictograms



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