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|  | Queensland kindergarten learning guideline  Professional development | Resources |  |
|  | Inclusion: Important information | |

This resource provides you with an opportunity to read and reflect on some important information around the topic of inclusion. If you wish to read the documents in full, select the links provided below.

It is recommended that you allocate approximately 30 minutes to read, reflect and respond to questions.

The information in this resource is sourced from four important documents.

1. **The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959)**

<http://www.cirp.org/library/ethics/UN-declaration/>

World War II marked a key shift in international policy related to human rights. Later, this led to a focus on child welfare and on children's rights as separate from those of adults.

In November 1959, the UN adopted the *Declaration on the Rights of the Child*. This has been followed by *the Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

1. **The Disability Discrimination Act (1992)**

<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2010C00023>

The Act was passed by the Parliament of Australia in 1992   
to promote the rights of people with disabilities:

* to standardise the scope of rights offered around the country
* to implement the Australian Government’s obligations as a signatory to international declarations on the rights of people with disabilities
* to enable regulation of discriminatory practices   
  of Commonwealth authorities.

1. **The Disability Standards for Education (2005)**

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/Programs/Documents/Disability_Standards_for_Education_2005.pdf>

The Standards came into effect in August 2005. They clarify the obligations of education and training providers to ensure that students with disabilities are able to access and participate in education and training on the same basis as those without disability.

1. **The UK index for inclusion: Developing play, learning and participation in early years and childcare (2006)**

<http://www.eenet.org.uk/resources/docs/Index%20EY%20English.pdf>

This resource is designed to support the development of inclusive practices in settings prior to school, to increase participation in play and learning.

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| United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) | Disability Discrimination Act (1992) | Disability Standards for Education (2005) | Index for inclusion: Developing play, learning and participation (2006) |
| Regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, where they were born or who they were born to, children have the right to:   * grow up and develop physically and spiritually in a healthy and normal way, free and with dignity * be protected against cruel acts or exploitation * be taught peace, understanding, tolerance and friendship among all people * go to school for free, to play, and to have an equal chance to learn to be responsible and useful * a name and a country * care and protection, good food, housing and medical services * care if handicapped in any way * love and understanding from parents and family or from the government if family cannot help * parents who take responsibility for their child’s education. | What is disability discrimination?  People with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else in the community.  However, sometimes they are discriminated against by being denied access to the things that we all see as important, such as getting a good education, having a job and being able to participate fully in the community.  Disability discrimination is prohibited under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld) and the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cwlth).  Legislation aims to prevent discrimination against people who have physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, neurological or learning disabilities, physical disfigurement or disabilities that arise from a disease.  The legislation also aims to prevent discrimination against families, friends and associates of people who have disabilities. | These Standards are formulated under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.  The Act and Standards make it against the law for an educational authority to discriminate against someone because that person has a disability.  A person with a disability has a right to study at any educational institution in the same way as any other student.  What should educators do?  Educators must offer a person with a disability the same educational opportunities as everyone else.  The legislation protects people with a disability against discrimination in education in the following areas:   * **admission:** refusal or failure to accept an application for admission from a person with disability * **access:** denying or limiting access to people with disability * **harassment:** humiliating comments or actions about a person’s disability, such as insults, or comments or actions which create a hostile environment. | Inclusion in education involves:   * promoting children’s participation in the cultures and activities of local communities * structuring the cultures, policies and practices in settings to be responsive to the diversity of children in the locality * valuing children, parents/carers and practitioners equally * viewing the differences between children as resources to support play, learning and participation * acknowledging the right of children to good quality education * making improvements for practitioners as well as for children * reducing barriers to play, learning and participation * fostering relationships between settings and communities * recognising that inclusion in early education and childcare are aspects of inclusion in society * putting inclusive values into action. |

## Activity

1. Read each summary and note the key points in the space provided.

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| United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959) | Disability Standards for Education (2005) |
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| Disability Discrimination Act (1992) | Index for inclusion: Developing play, learning and participation (2006) |
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1. Identify the common themes across the documents.

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| Common themes across the four documents |
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